FBIS-MEA-87-079
Friday
24 April 1987
Vol V No 079

Daily Report

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
PRINTED INSIDE COVER

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 APRIL 1987

Syria

Al-Asad in Moscow — President Hafiz al-Asad was "warmly welcomed" by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on his arrival in the Kremlin 23 April and the two leaders began talks the following morning, TASS reported. A Damascus radio commentary spoke of the "extreme importance" of Al-Asad's visit, linking the talks with the need to strengthen cooperation with the USSR and bolster the Arab position in the face of the "terrorism" and threats of "new expansionist moves" by Israel and the United States.

FRG Relations — Syria and the FRG have normalized relations after a 5-month period of "frostiness," DPA reported, noting that a new FRG ambassador has assumed duties in Damascus while a new Syrian ambassador is expected to arrive in Bonn shortly.

Alleged Contact With Israel — The Egyptian agency MENA claimed that an adviser to President al-Asad held talks with an Israeli representative in Vienna at the beginning of April.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak welcomed the new People's Assembly in an inaugural speech broadcast by Cairo radio, telling deputies that they obtained their seats in "free and honest elections that were not desecrated by illegal falsehoods nor diverted from their course by willful caprices." The new parliament must not ignore problems but it must not allow "bigoted partisan views" to create problems, he said, adding that "we are called upon to free ourselves from partisan interests." On foreign policy, Mubarak denied the "immature and irresponsible" report by a partisan paper which attempted to "distort" and "falsify" facts by claiming that Egypt will change its friendship and inclinations because "a specific state" turned down Egypt's economic demands. Those who published this "demagoguery" should realize that Egypt does not swing or oscillate in its policies, the president stressed, adding that "we will not turn our backs on a friendly country just because another state has shown sympathy toward us."

Israel

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Labor Party Central Committee that the future of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip remains "open" and he stressed that it will be necessary for Israel to accept a "substantial territorial compromise" in Judaea and Samaria, Jerusalem radio reported. The settlements of Alfe Menashe and Ari'el are located on land over which negotiations will be held when the time comes, Rabin asserted. The party endorsed Rabin's view by issuing a resolution that said the future of Jewish settlements in densely populated Arab areas of Judaea and Samaria should be resolved in negotiations with Jordan, while settlements in the Jordan rift valley and on the northern border should have priority over other settlements for security reasons.

In contrast, the radio broadcast Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement to settlers in Alfe Menashe that for Israel's defense commitment, "there is no difference between the residents of Kefar Sava and those of Alfe Menashe." "In light of what has been said," he added, "it will be necessary to increase the number of settlements as well."

As for the related Likud-alignment dispute over an international conference, Jerusalem radio disclosed that Likud minister Moshe Arens will try to win U.S. Jewish support for Shamir's opposition to the conference during his current U.S. visit. Shamir's office viewed the PLO's abrogation of the accord with Jordan as "another nail in the coffin of the international conference" because King Husayn will not dare come to negotiations without the PLO, *Yedi'ot Aharonot* reported. Regarding Jordan's stand on the international conference, an Israeli official cited by *Davar* said Jordan has withdrawn some of its conditions on the authority to be given to the conference and has come over to the view that the conference will serve only as a framework and an opening for direct negotiations.

Lebanon

Further Israeli Raids — Israeli helicopters launched another attack on "terrorist" targets south of Sidon 23 April, Jerusalem radio reported. Palestinian sources cited by Beirut radio stated that 16 people were injured in Israeli raids on 'Ayn al-Hulwah and other areas near Sidon. The helicopters fired rockets at targets that included buildings belonging to the PFLP-GC and the PPSF, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. The IDF had earlier repulsed a "terrorist" squad trying to penetrate Israel's security zone in Lebanon, according to Jerusalem radio.

Ministerial Meeting — A number of Christian and Muslim ministers held talks at the Mansur Palace in Beirut, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported, citing former President Camille Sham'un's view that the atmosphere of the talks was "encouraging."

Tunisia

Muslim militants rioted in central Tunis 23 April, attacking tourists and police vehicles, Paris radio reported. The rioters shouted slogans against President Habib Bourguiba and demanded the release of Islamic Tendency Movement leader Rachid Ghannouchi, who was arrested last month. TAP reported the incident the following day, stating that security forces had intervened swiftly to disperse a group of students who were trying to create "disturbances and anarchy." Two security men were injured and a number of demonstrators were arrested, the agency revealed.

Libya

An Amsterdam newspaper cited by AFP asserted that Libya is studying the feasibility of a terrorist attack on the Kourou space rocket base in French Guiana. *Algemeen Dagblad* said that British intelligence has warned France to guard against such an attack, noting that Libya wants to "hit France wherever possible" because of French policy in Chad.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio stated that Iraqi naval and land units sank nine Iranian gunboats and one large command and support vessel in the northern Gulf 23 April. The Iranian boats were reportedly attempting to attack Iraq's Al-'Amiq port. Iraqi aircraft raided a large maritime target in the Gulf the following day, according to a statement carried by the radio.

Pakistan

A Foreign Office spokesman denied the DRA's claim that Pakistan is involved in a plot to assassinate PDPA Secretary General Najibullah, terming such reports "totally fabricated, baseless, and incorrect," Karachi radio reported.

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PNC Proceedings Continue in Algiers

Egypt Ties Dispute Continues

JN230831 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 87 p 1, 4

[By Lamis K. Andoni and Badr 'Abd al-Haq in Algiers]

[Excerpts] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Political Department, on Wednesday defended the organization's ties with Jordan and Egypt and spelled out the terms under which the PLO would attend a proposed international peace conference on the Middle East.

Following Mr. Qaddumi's speech, a report on the financial situation of the PLO was presented by Mr. Jawid al-Ghusayn, head of the Palestine National Fund (PNF) and member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Meanwhile, intense consultations were under way among the various PLO factions to avoid a possible walkout of the PNC by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) over a simmering controversy concerning the PLO's relations with Egypt. Informed sources said PFLP leader George Habash, faced with a possible split in the PFLP ranks over the issue, was insisting that the PNC come out with an unequivocal statement severing all contacts and relations with the Egyptian government.

An Egyptian delegation met with Dr. Habash on Wednesday and the sources said the delegation urged the PFLP leader "not to push too much" with his demand for a "total cut- off" of contacts between the PLO and the Cairo government. However, said the sources, the appeal did not produce the desired result and Dr. Habash was reportedly preparing to quit the PNC meeting and leave Algiers "any moment." Official spokesmem, when asked about the dispute, said they did not have any "inside" information over what Dr. Habash's plans were.

However, one of the spokesmen conceded that "there is a dispute over the issue of relations with Egypt," and said: "a dialogue is continuing among the various factions to avoid a collapse of Palestinian unity achieved in Algiers."

In a press conference held Wednesday, PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman described the ongoing PNC meeting as a "turning point in the history of the PLO," and expressed confidence that "no effort aimed at undermining the (new-found) Palestinian unity will succeed." 'Abd al-Rahman said the Algiers meetings "Signalled a new era in efforts for achieving the goal of an independent Palestinian state."

In answer to a question why Algeria was reportedly not receptive to the idea of receiving the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, the PLO spokesman, who is close to Chairman 'Arafat, said: "On this issue, we think differently from the way Algerians think." He did not elaborate. [passage omitted]

Among those attending the Algiers meeting is Muhammad 'Abbas, who is wanted in Italy and the United States as the alleged mastermind of the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro.*

Mr. Qaddumi, addressing the Palestine National Council (PNC), said the PLO was committed to continuing dialogue with Jordan and establishing a framework for relations with the Kingdom in accordance with the resolutions of the 17th session of the PNC. He said the organisation was committed to the confederation formula between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state.

Mr. Qaddumi said that, at this point, an international conference was a feasible option being supported by the European Community, the Non-aligned Movement and the Soviet Union.

Fatah-PFLP Agreement on Egypt

JN240832 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Algiers — *Al-Ra'y* has obtained the full text of the formula on which Fatah and the PFLP have agreed regarding Egyptian-Palestinian relations. The agreement is signed by Yasir 'Arafat and George Habash. Following is its full text:

While it emphasizes the historic role of Egypt and its great people within the framework of the Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy and the sacrifices of the fraternal people of Egypt in defense of the Palestinian people and their national rights and in their struggle for Arab unity and liberation from imperialism and Zionism and while it appreciates Egypt's national and international prestige and the importance of Egypt's return and assumption of its natural role in the Arab arena, the PNC has decided to charge the Executive Committee with the task of defining the bases of Palestinian-Egyptian relations on the basis of successive resolutions of the PNC, especially those of the 16th session — including the stands and principles of the Palestinian struggle contained in these resolutions, foremost among such principles being the right to self-determination, repatriation, and an independent Palestinian state and that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people — and in light of relevant Arab summit resolutions, to achieve the aims of the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights, which have been affirmed by Arab resolutions, in a manner serving the Palestinian and Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy and its supporters.

Jordan Participants Issue Appeal

JN230952 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Amman — PETRA — Yesterday, the sons of the Jordanian-Palestinian family attending the PNC meetings in Algiers presented the following statement to the PNC speaker and members and requested that the statement be considered an official document and be read out at the conference. The text of the statement is as follows:

Speaker and members of the PNC. In the name of Palestine; in the name of the martyrs' blood; in the name of those who are deeply rooted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; in the name of those who are standing fast in the Palestinian camps; and in the name of all the Palestinians in Jordan we appeal to you to remain faithful to national unity, work to consolidate present and future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, and safeguard Jordanian-Palestinian unity. In Jordan we are among our kinfolk and friends; Palestinian blood has mingled with Jordanian blood on Palestine's pure soil. We share a common objective and destiny. Moreover, the relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people has turned into one of blood, fraternity, and amity which cannot be broken with the passage of time. This relationship has been forged by faithful people and with the blood of martyrs, and is blessed by all honest people.

May God grant you success and guide your steps along the good path. Let your slogan be as God Almighty says: "Work (righteousness): Soon will God observe your work, and his apostle, and the believers." [Koranic verse]

Committees Begin Work

LD232314 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The proceedings of the 10 committees, which were established by the PNC yesterday after a heated discussion on the start of their work, began tonight at the Palace of Nations in Algiers. Earlier, the participants in the national unity session of the PNC agreed on the membership of the council as a unit of the revolution, and adopted 20 new members in their individual capacity.

New Members Named

JN232023 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2005 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 23 Apr (WAKH) — The PNC convening in Algiers has elected 21 new members representing various trends that had not been included in the PNC. The elected members are:

From the Communist Party: Sulayman al-Najjab, Na'im al-Ashhab, 'Abd al-Rahman 'Awadallah, Walid Mustapha, Mahmud Shuqayr, Dawud 'Urayqat and Mazin al-Husayni.

From the Palestine Liberation Front Tal'at Ya'qub branch: 'Abd al-Rahman al-Hurani, 'Abdallah Abu 'Azzah, Jamal Hasan 'Ayish, Tal'at Ya'qub, Rashad Abu Shadir, and Ahmad Isma'il Najm.

From the independents: Faysal al-Hurani, 'Abd al-Mun'im Khalifah, Shawqi Armili, Munir Shafiq, Mundhir al-Dajani, Mashhur Salamah, 'Abla Taha, and Ghazi al-Sa'di.

Communists' Admission Criticized

JN240858 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 24 Apr (INA) — With a majority of 199 votes, the PNC has decided to accept the Palestinian Communist Party [PCP] as one of the Palestinian revolution factions. Five PNC members voted against this decision and 1 member, out of 326 [as received] members attending, abstained. The PNC also decided to accept 20 new members in the PNC, including Faysal Hawrani, Tal'at Ya'qub, and Mrs 'Abla Taha.

ALF Secretary General 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad has warned against the admission of certain factions to PNC membership as a result of national, pan-Arab, or international pressures to which the PLO may be subjected. He said the ALF does not object to the admission of the PCP but fears this admission may open the way for entry into the PNC of elements and organizations on any pretext or under internal or external pressure.

Hawatimah on Political Draft

LD231229 Algiers APS in English 1120 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 23/3/87 (APS) — Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine announced Thursday at a press conference, the setting up of a draft of a political programme between the different Palestinian factions, underlining that the litigious issues which marked the Palestinian scene these last four years are resolved. Hawatimah precised that the programme of democratic reform was elaborated for the first time in the history of the organization. "This reform, he stated consists of the election of a Central Council, having the National Council's prerogates between two sessions and of the constitution of a new Executive Committee including the whole of the factions and the election of a collegial leadership composed of the Executive Committee leadership composed of the Executive Committee members. As far as Egypt is concerned, Hawatimah stated that "it is up to this government to give up the accords of Camp David, President Reagan's project and the accord of Amman, if it wishes to normalize its relations with PLO".

The Egyptian Government should also stop exerting pressures on PLO in order to impose to it the UN Resolution 242 which deny the Palestinian people's right to set up an independent state. The DFLP secretary general concluded that the Egyptian Government "should abstain from calling for an international conference which would serve as a cover for projects of separated settlements and for direct negotiations."

Al-'Abbas Reviews 'Achille Lauro' Incident

NC231509 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, April 23 (AFP) — Abu al-'Abbas, the Palestinian leader implicated in the hijacking of the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro* in October 1985, admitted here Thursday he was "partially responsible" for the hostage-taking, in which an elderly crippled American passenger was killed.

"The aim was not to hijack the liner," said Mr. al-'Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front. "The fighters on board were under instructions to travel to Ashdod (in Israel, the liner's destination). When they were discovered, they hijacked the liner, and that's when the accident occurred," Mr. al-'Abbas told a group of journalists.

Mr. Abbas, whose real name is Muhammad al-'Abbas, is in Algiers to attend the meeting of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian "parliament-in-exile."

"If I hadn't intervened, there would have been a catastrophe. Rather than highlight the one passenger who died, people should remember the 500 others who were saved thanks to the good offices of a Palestinian mission," Mr. Abbas continued.

"Mistakes can happen during large-scale operations, but our policy is not to inflict acts of violence on innocent civilians," he said.

Mr. Abbas accused the United States of wishing to exploit the incident "to blacken the image of the PLO and mask U.S. support for Iranian terrorism and the (pro-Iranian Lebanese Shi'ite) Hizballah."

However he praised the "positive role" of Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi during the affair.

Member of the PLO Executive Committee, Mr. Abbas said he was prepared to accept "any mission or post" within the Palestinian movement. Referring to rumours that he would lose his position on the PLO Executive Committee in the PNC elections at the end of the Algiers conference, Mr. Abbas denied that he had "already" resigned.

"My resignation would be a gift to the Americans," he said.

On Wednesday, Mr. Abbas told journalists that PLO leaders wanted him off the Executive Committee and that he "didn't want to stay anyway."

Views PLF Operation Plans

JN240941 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 22 Apr 87 pp 1, 19

[Text] Algiers — Muhammad 'Abbas, also known as Abu al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], has said the next few days will see some important military operations in the occupied Arab territories because the PLF has made this decision and has prepared itself to deal painful blows to Israel. In a statement to *Al-Ra'y Al-'amm* Muhammad 'Abbas said: Our fighters in the PLF are preparing to carry out operations that will come as a surprise to the Israeli occupation forces. He added: The *Achille Lauro* incident will not be repeated because we have learned our lesson.

The PLF secretary general said: Our operations will take place in the occupied territories and we will not carry out any actions outside Palestine or the occupied Arab territories. He added: Despite the failure of the operation involving the Italian liner, we would like to stress this operation was planned for the port of Ashdod. This means it was to be conducted in the occupied territories.

'Abbas denied any differences within the ranks of his front. He said: Several front members arrived from Damascus to participate in the national dialogue meetings and the PNC session and will return following the end of their mission in Algiers. He also denied the existence of any differences between him and Tal'at Ya'qub and said he met with him in Algiers several times.

On his Front's permanent headquarters, 'Abbas said: Our headquarters will be wherever PLO Headquarters will be. On the fate of the PNSF, 'Abbas said it is on its way out after having outlived its usefulness and after having failed on the ground.

He added: We do not want to lose any Palestinian fighter or element and the PLO's house is spacious and can accommodate everyone. He said: Palestinian unity is the only road to Palestinian-Arab reconciliation, as Palestinian division and organizational dismemberment aggravate differences and increase division. He concluded by saying: We call for mutual respect between the PLO and all Arab countries.

Qaddumi Says No Conditions Placed on Egypt Ties

JN232001 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Nabil Darwish; place, date not given — live or recorded]

[Text] [Darwish] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department: In light of the political report and the political discussions within the PNC, it is clearly apparent that you are placing many conditions on your relations with Egypt. You have also abrogated the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. There are also the differences with Syria to which you referred in the political report. You declared that (?despite) these differences and conditions you will go to the international conference, and it appears there is a Palestinian consensus to attend the international conference.

[Qaddumi] First, we have not placed conditions on Egypt. We should not place conditions on Egypt. Egypt is the big sister Arab state, and no one can place conditions on her. It was clear from the political report that we were not putting forward any conditions. What we said is that all the efforts to bring Egypt back to the Arab fold must be completed, and we appealed to the Arabs and Egypt to cooperate to establish the political basis on which Egypt can return to joint Arab action and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The abrogation of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint action program in no way implies the undermining of our relations with the Jordanian people. These ties are special, as stated in PNC resolutions and as shown by events. Political coordination has stopped, for there is no longer any need for a joint action program. Joint action is political coordination. It was a new mechanism instituted after the 7-member committee in which Jordan, the PLO, Syria, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and other states took part was formed to promote the Arab peace plan.

There are clear differences with Syria. The clashes in Lebanon are doubtlessly a sure sign of these differences. We believe Syria must take the necessary measures and steps to eliminate all the obstacles to equitable relations and mutual respect between Syria and PLO. All that has no connection with the international conference. [Words indistinct] there has been talk about the idea, the convening of an international conference. First, an Arab summit must be held so that we can resolve Arab differences and all the Arab forces can agree on joint action. Then political moves can be made on the basis of joint Arab action in which all the parties concerned will take part, be it the international conference or any other means that could bring about a just peace in the area.

[Darwish] You have been head of Palestinian diplomacy for a long time. Now you are preparing to include communists in the PLO Executive Committee. Will that affect the nature of your work — I mean the PLO's external relations — both on the Arab and international levels? Does the communists' inclusion reflect a specific balance of forces or a specific international view?

[Qaddumi] The PLO takes into consideration the need for all political forces in the Palestinian arena to participate. The communists already have a fedayeen organization called the Al-Ansar, and they have carried out armed action. It is their right as a faction to participate in the PLO — in the PNC and in the Executive Committee. I believe that that gives additional strength to the PLO, as we are seeking to bring all the factions into the PLO. Now we are inviting the communist brothers to join the PLO and to contribute effectively in all its institutions.

[Darwish] (?Despite the growing) Islamic trend in the West Bank?

[Qaddumi] That does not affect PLO policy [words indistinct] and armed struggle. There will be continued agreement on these matters and they will be decided upon by PNC sessions. With regard to other parties, there are no organizations constituted [word indistinct] so that one can say another trend can join. The PNC is prepared to discuss every application made by every side that carries out organized action and that constitutes a political body and carries out political and military action in accordance with PNC conditions.

[Darwish] One last question. What is your reaction to Jordan's response to the abrogation of the agreement?

[Qaddumi] The Jordanian response will not change the facts of the situation. We do not believe anything new was introduced as a result of Jordan's response. As I said, PLO relations with Jordan will continue to be in accordance with the resolutions of Arab summits and the PNC, namely, that we (?strengthen) our ties with Jordan on a confederal basis between two independent states — if we are able to achieve such an objective.

[Darwish] Thank you, Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi]

PLO's Al-Wazir on Amman Agreement, Egypt, Syria

JN240606 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Apr 87 p 18

[Text] Algiers — Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, has said the abrogation of the Amman agreement does not mean the annulment of Jordanian-Palestinian relations. He emphasized the historic relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

In an exclusive interview with *Al-Dustur* Abu Jihad said: The relationship between the Jordanian Government and the PLO began after the Baghdad Summit. The Jordanian- Palestinian agreement was signed some time after that. Consequently, we do not believe the abrogation of the Amman agreement means the annulment of political relations between the Jordanian Government and the PLO.

Al-Wazir added: Our political moves will continue to be based on Arab resolutions and on the Fes summit resolutions. He said the PLO is seeking to maintain overall Arab support and not just the support of some Arab states with the exclusion of others.

Asked about relations with Egypt, Al-Wazir said the various Palestinian factions participating in the PNC have agreed on a common formula, which defines relations with Egypt on the basis of PNC and Arab summit resolutions, while giving the PLO Executive Committee the right to make the appropriate decision in light of the interests of the Palestinian people.

Al-Wazir did not deny that such a formula is vague and that there may be more than one interpretation of it, but asserted that was the objective so a formula on which there is unanimity will be found. He said what is important is to abide by PNC and Arab summit resolutions. He said the PLO Executive Committee will soon lay down bases for ties with Egypt.

Asked about Palestinian-Syrian relations, Al-Wazir said the PLO will contact Arab leaders to push forward efforts to normalize links between the PLO and the Syrian Government. He said after the PNC meetings the PLO will initiate efforts to restore normal relations with Syria, particularly as the political program to be endorsed by the PNC encourages dialogue with Damascus.

Khalaf Comments on Jordan, Morocco Stands

JN231347 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Algiers]

[Text] Commenting on the official Jordanian reaction to the abrogation of the Amman agreement, Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], said the Jordanian side is moderate and reflects the civilized Jordanian behavior that does not fall prey to cheap reactions. That is the first official Palestinian reaction to Jordan's stand.

During a discussion with a small number of journalists on the fringes of the PNC meetings in Algiers, Abu Iyad added: The PLO will seek to strengthen its relations with Jordan, Egypt, and Syria despite the differences with the three states. It will do this because it is inconceivable that the PLO should not have good contacts and a certain degree of political coordination with those directly concerned with the Middle East issue, that is, the states bordering Israel.

Abu Iyad added: The world is now discussing the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, and we cannot disregard Arab coordination on that issue.

With regard to the speech by King Hassan II of Morocco following the participation of a Polisario representative in the PNC meetings, Abu Iyad expressed his surprise at the remarks by the Moroccan monarch and said: I would have preferred the Moroccan king to have severed relations with the PLO instead of instigating the Moroccan people against us. He added: I recall that King Hassan II received Shim'on Peres and the PLO did not sever its relations with Rabat. Abu Iyad asked: Is not the Peres visit a much more serious matter than the Polisario representative's participation in the PNC meetings?

Communists Condemn Morocco

LD232018 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 23 Apr (APS) — Abd al-Rahman Barhawi, secretary of the Central Committee of the Palestinian Workers Communist Party, strongly denounced the Moroccan Government's statements and measures against the PLO and the Palestinian people and their revolution because "these measures are in accordance with Zionist colonialist policy, which is hostile to our people and to our just national cause."

This came in a press release circulated today at the Palace of Nations in Algiers where the proceedings of the PNC unity session are being held. The statement said that the reactionary Moroccan regime, which has received Peres, the former prime minister of the enemy state, is leaving Morocco's doors wide open to Israel and the Zionist movement in an extension to its vile part in the capitulationist Camp David agreements. Moreover, with its recent stand, this regime reveals its reactionary nature and conspiratorial role against the Palestinian people.

The statement went on to say: "We reject and condemn the policy of the Moroccan regime and its insolent stand vis-a-vis the PLO and the brotherly Moroccan people themselves. We are also convinced that the fighting Moroccan people and their militant dynamic forces will [words indistinct] and foil the measures and policies adopted by the regime against the PLO.

PFLP Political Bureau Member Denies Split

JN230955 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
23 Apr 87 pp 1, 20

[Text] Damascus — Abu Mahir al-Yamani, member of the PFLP Political Bureau, has vehemently denied any signs of a split in the PFLP. In a telephone conversation with *Al-Ra'y* from Damascus commenting on *Al-Ra'y*'s report yesterday on a possible split within the PFLP, Al-yamani said: This report is untrue and completely baseless. It is intended to tarnish the image and policy of the PFLP, as well as its stands and efforts which seek to restore PLO unity on firm, solid national ground.

Al-Yamani reasserted that the stands of the PFLP delegation at the PNC enjoy the support and backing of PFLP leaders and cadres everywhere. Concluding his statement, Al-Yamani said there are still some differences in the PNC regarding the PLO stand on Egypt.

KUWAIT

Paper Editorials Defend Tanker Hire Decision

LD231506 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0724 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Apr (KUNA) — Local Kuwaiti papers today comment editorially on the clamor being raised by foreign quarters about Kuwait's independent decision to hire tankers to carry its oil exports through the Gulf.

Al-Anba' writes that the clamor is no more than a hollow drumming aimed at confusing right and wrong. It is no more than a prejudiced campaign which will deceive no one, the paper adds.

The Kuwaiti decision is an act of its legitimate and established right of sovereignty, as well as a purely internal matter governed by its economic, oil and security interests, the paper writes. It adds that the decision was a normal one and not an innovation in the practices of the oil-producing countries. Furthermore, it adds, it is a normal step, which is not the first of its kind and will not be the last, whether by Kuwait or any other world oil producing country. Indeed, those who are creating all this clamor and coupling it with shouts and threats have themselves hired and still hire tankers for carrying their oil. This is a fact known to all.

When it embarked on this measure, prompted by its interest and good, *Al-Anba'* adds, Kuwait did not confine its hiring to one particular country but asked to hire tankers through its oil establishments in various parts of the world, including the United States, China and some European countries.

The paper wonders if the causes of this artificial clamor and fabricated campaign are nothing more than a desire to create concern and disturbances in the Gulf, and to throw a wrench in the wheel of efforts to restore stability to the region, and to insure the security of Gulf navigation against aggression and piracy.

Al-Anba' adds: Kuwait, together with the other GCC member countries, has repeatedly affirmed that the safeguarding of the navigation in the territorial waters is the national responsibility of every country in the region, while the protection of navigation in the Gulf international waters and the Straits of Hormuz is an international responsibility because it is tied to world interests.

The paper affirms that Kuwait's decision to protect its own or hired tankers to carry its oil is an independent decision dictated by the free will of independent and sovereign Kuwait, which enjoys sovereignty over its land, water, and decision-making. Kuwait refused to accept, does not accept, and will not accept to bargain on its decisions, or any interference in its affairs. Kuwait does not fear any threat nor hollow cries by those who want to play house with the security and stability of the region.

In conclusion, the paper writes: "Let everyone hear one word from us, just one word, not two, from which nothing can make us deviate. We are people who believe in their sovereignty and in their independent decision-making. We do not allow anyone to interfere in our affairs. We are people who, if they say they will do something, do it, and if they do something, no force can sway them from doing what they are determined to do. We are people with a chaste Arab blood, fearing no threat, blackmail, or bargaining. We will continue our policy, which stems from our established principles and free willpower, paying no attention to the language of blustering and threats, or the logic of the jungle and threat."

Kuwait's *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* expresses its regret at the "flimsy objections and emotional outcries which are trying to delineate or obstruct Kuwait's course within the framework of its international cooperation with any quarter without bias or discrimination." The paper adds "We can find no logical interpretation for the objections or criticism being raised against our actions with regard to buying or selling, exporting or importing, including hiring ships, the shipment of our oil exports abroad, and the acceptance of vessels coming to us with goods from the East and the West in a manner which does not detract from our policies, impair our independence, or harm our willpower."

The paper points out that Kuwait holds enmity for no one, and it befriends those who wish to befriend it for the sake of good and cooperation. It lays bridges of friendship between brothers and friends as out of its belief that good neighborliness and relations are a close cultural way of dealing among countries seeking a better future free of problems troubles, and provocations.

The paper asks with regret: "Why do some seek to raise such objections about Kuwait and other region countries, through their information media, in a manner which lacks logic, credibility, and the spirit of international community."

Al-Qabas adds that while Kuwait has been meritoriously shouldering the task of defending its interests in its regional waters, it considers the guaranteeing of freedom of navigation in international waterways to be the responsibility of the international community.

The paper points out that "the international community, however, has failed to shoulder its responsibilities. When Kuwait noted that vessels of the major powers were immune from attacks, it asked to hire tankers from the UN Security Council permanent member countries, despite the high cost."

The paper adds that the USSR and the United States have both agreed to this in principle, "but it is noteworthy that this coordinated campaign aims at depicting Kuwait as seeking the protection of this or that power."

The paper warns that "the aim of this campaign is without doubt a moral one, intended to force us to accept the presence of foreign troops, under the pretext of defending us."

The paper affirms that Kuwait's position is clear and frank. "We refuse to submit to such blackmail, and it is determined to protect its independence and independent decision-making. Every nonnational presence in our land is rejected; every nonnational presence in our waters is rejected; and every nonnational presence in our skies is rejected."

In conclusion the paper says: "We do not accept any presence that will detract from our sovereignty, however small."

OMAN

USSR's Petrovskiy Concludes Visit After Talks

JN231429 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] His Excellency Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister, left the country this afternoon following a 2-day visit to the sultanate during which he conveyed a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. He also held talks with a number of top officials in the Sultanate.

His Highness Fahd ibn Muhmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received Vladimir Petrovskiy in his office this morning. The meeting was attended by Soviet Ambassador to the sultanate Aleksandr Zinchuk and the delegation accompanying his excellency the Soviet deputy foreign minister. Also attending was Salim ibn 'Abdallah Burhan Ba 'Umar of the Europe Department of the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The talks revolved around bilateral relations and means to promote them in the interest of the two friendly peoples. They also reviewed the current situation in the international arena and issues of mutual interest.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister expressed happiness at visiting the sultanate. He also expressed admiration for the progress and development he noticed in all areas during the visit. He attributed this to the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. He commended the sultanate's positive policy on all international levels.

His Excellency Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, also received his excellency the USSR deputy foreign minister in his office this morning. They discussed our friendly bilateral relations, means to promote and bolster them, and issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by His Highness Haytham ibn Tariq ibn Taymur, the ministry's under secretary for political affairs; and His Excellency Ambassador 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad al-Dhahab, head of the department of his excellency the minister's office.

Official talks were held at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The Omani side was headed by His Excellency Haytham ibn Tariq ibn Taymur, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs, and the Soviet side by His Excellency Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister. The participants further discussed our friendly bilateral relations. They also discussed ways to advance and strengthen our ties in all fields. The two sides also discussed a number of current issues in the Gulf and Arab arenas, headed by the Iraq-Iran war and the Middle East issue, in addition to several matters of mutual interest in the international arena.

The session was attended by a number of top Foreign Ministry officials and the delegation accompanying his excellency the guest.

PDRY

YSP's Al-Bid Discusses Reconstruction Efforts

PM231359 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22-28 Apr 87 pp 16,17

[Interview with YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid by Fadiyah al-Zu'bi in Aden; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Zu'bi] How was it possible to stabilize the general situation in the Republic after the 13 January 1986 events? Is it likely that further conflicts will take place, as some observers believe, and what were the lessons you have drawn from those events?

[Al-Bid] The 13 January conspiracy has caused very extensive destruction in the country. It is evidenced by the extent of devastation and the widespread killings. The planners and perpetrators of this conspiracy intended to liquidate this experiment, its gains, and its symbols. However, since the conspiracy was thwarted we have set as our goal the resumption of duties by the party authorities, mass organizations, and government and public institutions. Great efforts have been made to contain the consequences of this crime and to establish law and order. The people's awareness and their upholding of the policy of national salvation pursued by the party have played a decisive role in stablizing the general situation in the Republic. We believe that our party and people will not allow the recurrence of a crime such as this. They strongly believe that democracy, close ties with the popular masses, the true expresssion of the masses' interests, and the participation of the masses in government are the true safety valve. They believe that these elements will protect us against the recurrence of the 13 January incidents. This bitter experiment has taught us that monopolizing power, dissenting from the consensus of views, and failure to adhere to the party's ideology, statutes, and humanities are the path leading to deviation and conspiracy. Failure to strictly follow the constitution, rules, and laws of the republic, and the absence of democracy also lead down this road.

[Al-Zu'bi] How did you deal with Shabwah and Abyan Provinces, which are believed to be the provinces that most strongly support 'Ali Nasir Muhammad?

[Al-Bid] Abyan and Shabwah are two of the Republic's six provinces; they enjoy the same care and attention as that enjoyed by the other provinces, and projects set for them in the plan drawn up before the [13 January 1986] events are being carried out. Our citizens in those two provinces are exhibiting a high nationalist spirit. The claim that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has many supporters in those two provinces is not true. The future will prove that the 47 individuals who have not yet been brought to justice are his only supporters. They are the ones who helped him plan and execute the events. They then fled with him from the republic even before the people they deluded.

[Al-Zu'bi] How can the differing views of the peoples of the two parts of Yemen be united?

[Al-Bid] We are conducting a long unification march with our brothers in the northern part. Through this, we have achieved many agreements and numerous unification goals. We believe that the Supreme Yemeni Council is one of most important of these achievements. We feel that the resumption of the activities of the Supreme Yemeni Council and the continuation of sincere national dialogue is the path to the peaceful and democratic reunification of the Yemeni homeland. We believe that all the problems, difficulties, and complexes can be resolved through dialogue and through the continuation of the unification efforts that ceased following the bloody 13 January incidents.

[Al-Zu'bi] The large number of Yemeni supporters of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad living abroad is an embarrasment to the PDRY authorities. How can this problem be resolved? Has the general amnesty law included all these citizens, and what guarantees have they been given? Have these people returned to the PDRY, and how many are they?

[Al-Bid] We do not believe that all those who left the PDRY territories following the 13 January events were supporters of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. We consider the majority of them to have been deluded. A considerable number of them have left the country for personal reasons. Very few of them are supporters of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. We have a general amnesty law which we extended until the end of next July. The law covers all those who left the Republic following the incidents with the exception of 48 persons, including 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who are wanted so that they can be brought to justice. All those covered by the amnesty are guaranteed the right to their jobs with their previous grades and salaries. The few that have lost their houses will be given back their houses or will be compensated with similar houses. A considerable number of those who left the Republic after the bloody 13 January incidents have returned to their homeland, their homes, their kinsfolk, and their friends. Some of them have assumed high posts and others returned to their previous jobs or went back to their regions as they wished. We are confident that the great majority who are outside the Republic wish to come back but they are finding great difficulties in making their choices and expressing them. We all are aware that it is 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his group that are benefiting from those innocent people remaining in camps outside the republic. But we shall exert all political efforts possible with our brothers who see eye to eye with us on the difficult humanitarian situation of our brother citizens, and we shall do everything possible to enable them to return to their country, their people, and their work.

[Al-Zu'bi] There was a very large number of detainees following the January events. What happened to them, and what is the situation of their families and the families of those who died or were martyred?

[Al-Bid] The number of detainees at that time reached about 5,000. Most of them have been released. I can assert that their number now is no more than 200. Some of them have been brought to trial and some others are in jail. Yet others are detained until the situation calms down. We wish we did not have a single prisoner. As for the families of these people and of those who were martyred or killed, we are seeking to remove the consequences of what 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his group have done. Out of our responsibility for them, we are sincerely working to provide care for the families that have lost their supporter. In addition we are seeking to remove the psychological effect of the events among the youths. This calls for persistent educational and political work.

[Al-Zu'bi] What progress has been made in the Kuwaiti mediation between you and northern Yemen regarding the return of those who have fled?

[Al-Bid] We highly appreciate efforts of the Kuwaiti brothers and thank them for their sincere efforts. But we cannot answer for them as to the progress made in their efforts — efforts for which we are grateful. For our part we have, as we have already said, offered all the guarantees for the return of our brothers who were deluded and who are now living abroad. We expect our brothers in the northern part of the homeland to help us in facilitating this task.

[Al-Zu'bi] How are you dealing with the infiltration operations being carried out by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's supporters and how many infiltrators have there been?

[Al-bid] All the infiltration operations have been foiled. They are few in number. Yet the most recent of these was the despatch of a booby-trapped vehicle. We tell those who send infiltrators or held them infiltrate that this is a double-edged weapon. It could backfire on those who carry it out or facilitate it in moments of despair, thanks to the vigilance of our security forces, army, and masses. We call for the Yemeni people to be spared any further bloodshed, but we shall deal mercilessly with whoever may try to harm our country, regime, and people.

[Al-Zu'bi] What is the significance of your recent visit to the Soviet Union, and what results have you achieved in this visit? Has their [the Soviets] attitude toward you changed from the one they adopted at the beginning of the January events when they were unenthusiastic about your group?

[Al-Bid] Our recent visit to the Soviet Union was very successful. It represents a qualitative change in our bilateral relations, which have reached heights never before attained. Both sides have been persistent in following up the visit. As for change in the Soviet attitude since the 13 January events, I would confidently say that the Soviet Union's attitude toward our regime has never changed. They are the friends who stand by our side in time of trials and tribulations and give us selfless support and backing.

[Al-Zu'bi] The January events have cost much in terms of destruction. There is no doubt that much effort and substantial funds are needed in order to repair the psychological and material damage that has been done. Have you concluded agreements to obtain financial assistance in order to rebuild what has been destroyed, and which countries have pledged assistance?

[Al-Bid] Materially, we have rebuilt the town of Aden, which suffered great damage. We believe that it is now even more beautiful than before. We are making great efforts to repair our economy and rectify its course with the intent of making it productive. To this end, we have introduced many austerity measures. Simultaneously, we have taken into consideration the importance of loans and aid for reconstruction. In this regard, the brothers and the friends have offered us aid for which we are thankful. But we believe that the removal of the psychological effect of the 13 January events will require greater efforts on our part. In this area, our efforts are being concentrated on strengthening national unity and educating the youths in brotherhood, love, and allegiance to the Yemeni homeland. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Discusses Syria, Libya, Algeria Visits

EA240344 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and his delegation returned to Aden this evening after concluding his official and friendly visits of several days to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid told ANA immediately after his arrival: From 16 to 22 April this year, we paid brotherly and friendly visits to Libya and Algeria.

When we stopped in Damascus, we met Brother President Hafiz al-Asad, with whom we discussed party and government relations between our country and sisterly Syria, and ways of consolidating and developing them in the interests of our peoples and countries. We also discussed current Arab issues, primarily PLO unity. We agreed on the (?great) need to achieve a minimum [as heard] of Arab solidarity to confront the (?malicious) imperialist and Zionist onslaught on our countries and to establish economic projects aimed at [word indistinct] Palestinian issue and [word indistinct] Palestinian people. We also emphasized our support and [word indistinct] for the Syrian Republic in its confrontation with imperialist and Zionist plots [words indistinct] Lebanese national movement.

The brother secretary general went on to say: We paid an official visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at the invitation of Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. Our official talks with the combatant Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qhahdhafi dealt with fraternal bilateral relations and ways of developing and consolidating them. We discussed developing our ties in the interests of Arab solidarity so as to confront the imperialist and Zionist onslaught. We also reviewed our ties in terms of working to reunify the groups of the Palestinian revolution and consolidate the liberation organization on the basis of [opposing] the imperialist and Zionist pacts and economic projects. We agreed on the importance of working to assist [word indistinct] Palestine to achieve its unity and consolidate it through Arab solidarity.

In the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, we had the honour of attending the Palestinian National Council (?session) on united Palestine, (?remnants) of the camps and the masses of the occupied nation. At the meeting, we delivered our party's speech stressing our unlimited support for the unifying steps our Palestinian brothers have agreed on. We also expressed our support for their just struggle to (?gain) their complete national rights, to restore self-determination, and to construct their own independent state in their land under the leadership of PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

In Algeria, we met with Algerian brothers and with Brother President Chadli Bendjedid. At these meetings, we dealt with fraternal bilateral relations and ways of developing and consolidating them, as well as with current Arab and international issues.

The brother secretary general ended his statement, saying: We believe our visits to Libya and Algeria and our stopover in Damascus have contributed toward coordinating our efforts with our brothers in Syria, Libya, and Algeria toward consolidating Arab solidarity, reuniting the PLO, and developing our relations with these sisterly countries. We stressed the importance of making contact with all Arab states with the view to uniting the Arab ranks against imperialist and Zionist threats against our Arab countries. [passage omitted]

YAR

Foreign Ministry Talks With Romanians Conclude

JN231203 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Official talks between our country and Romania were concluded at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. A final session of talks was held in which our country's delegation was led by Ahmad al-Iryani, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the Romanian side by Deputy Foreign Minister Traian Pop.

The two sides reviewed the various aspects of bilateral cooperation in addition to the general situation in the region, with special emphasis on the Iraq-Iran war. Theyexpressed their concern over the continuation of the war, which is exhausting the two neighboring countries, undermining relations among the states in the region, and constituting a threat to peace. Both sides expressed their conviction that the Iraq-Iran conflict can only be settled by negotiations, and hence, an end to this war is needed as soon as possible.

'Abd al-Ghani Meets Romanian

JN231508 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, has received the Romanian delegation currently visiting our country under Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Traian Pop. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the region in general, and the Iraq-Iran war in particular.

The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad al-Iryani, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Brother Mansur 'Abd al-Karim, plenipotentiary minister and YAR charge d'affaires in Romania.

Soviet Solidarity Delegation Visits 15-23 Apr

Delegation's Arrival Noted

JN151425 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text][Name indistinct], secretary general of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries [title as heard], arrived in Sanaa this morning on a visit of several days. In a statement to SABA', [name indistinct] expressed deep satisfaction with this visit which will allow him to meet with officials of the YAR Council for Peace and Solidarity and to hold talks on expanding and deepening relations between the YAR and Soviet masses. He added that this visit takes place on an important occasion in the histories of the YAR and Soviet peoples. This year the YAR people will celebrate the silver jubilee of the glorious 26 September revolution, and the Soviet people will celebrate the 70th anniversary of their revolution.

Concluding his statement, the Soviet official noted that in his talks with officials of the YAR Council for Peace and Solidarity he will discuss several Arab and international issues, such as preventing the nuclear catastrophe threatening mankind, the active role of the YAR Council for Peace and Solidarity and of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With the Asian and African States [words indistinct].

The Soviet delegation was received by Brother Muhammad al-Zawqa, the SABA' director, secretary of the YAR Council for Peace and Solidarity, and member of the Standing Committee; Brother 'Abd al-Halim [name indistinct], member of the YAR Council for Peace and Solidarity; and the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa.

Agreement Signed

JN231158 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress, yesterday received [name indistinct], secretary of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries, and his delegation, which is now visiting our country. The two sides discussed the current relations between the YAR Peace and Solidarity Council and the Soviet Solidarity Committee.

A final session of talks was held in Sanaa yesterday between the YAR Peace and Solidarity Council and the delegation of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries. The YAR side was led by Ahmad Luqman, minister of housing and municipalities, member of the Standing Committee, and secretary of the YAR Peace and Solidarity Council; and the USSR side by its secretary [name indistinct], who stressed the need for continuing meetings, seminars, conferences, and mutual visits by officials and experts from the two friendly countries in order to entrench the firm relations between them.

The two sides signed an agreement aimed at promoting bilateral relations, strengthening ties of friendship and solidarity, and increasing their contributions to the AAPSO, which is opposed to colonialism, Zionism, and racism. The agreement also stipulated the exchange of visits by delegations from the two countries and exchanging views and coordinating in all matters of concern to both sides. Within the existing cooperation between the two sides, the Soviet Committee delegation expressed readiness to offer a number of higher education scholarships.

USSR Delegation Departs

JN231632 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text][Name indistinct], secretary general of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries [title as heard], left Sanaa at noon today following a 1-week visit to our country during which he held talks with the brothers in the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council on issues of interest to the two countries and the attainment of peace on both regional and international levels.

In a statement to SABA', [name indistinct] said his visit entrenched and consolidated bilateral cooperation in the field of the activities of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization. The aim of the stronger cooperation is to achieve peace and ease hotbeds of tension on regional and international levels, including the Middle East. He pointed out that the two sides have emphasized the need to halt the current bloodshed between Iraq and Iran.

The Soviet official said an agreement for cooperation between the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council and the Soviet Solidarity Committee was signed. It contains tangible, practical steps for cooperation in the social field between the two countries. It is intended to confront and struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and Zionism. He explained that his visit enabled him to become acquainted with and closely watch the great achievements of the Yemeni people in economic, development, construction, and cultural fields. He pointed out that the existence of 1.5 million students at various stages of learning is the best evidence of the Yemeni people's achievements.

Concluding his statement, [name indistinct] expressed admiration for these achievements and the Yemeni people's determination to continue to work for more achievements. He expressed thanks and appreciation to the brothers in the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council for the friendly welcome and hospitality.

He was seen off by Brothers Muhammad al-Khalidi, Muhammad al-Khattabi, and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shabibi, members of the secretariat of the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council; 'Abd al-Rahman Sayf, director of the council's foreign relations; and His Excellency Anatoliy Filev, the USSR ambassador in Sanaa.

Mubarak Addresses People's Assembly Session

NC231112 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0825 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak inaugurating the first joint session of the new People's Assembly and Consultative Council at the People's Assembly Hall in Cairo — live]

[Text] Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council: A new chapter in the history of legislative councils in Egypt begins today with the opening of the new People's Assembly. We hope this chapter will be a tangible addition to the democratic edifice in our redeemed homeland. At the beginning of my speech, permit me to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all members of the People's Assembly, who have won the trust of our citizens. I welcome them to this most honorable position, which fulfills the mission of democracy to rule the people for the people and in the interests of the people. [applause] Welcome to you who have obtained your seats by the will of the people, in free and honest elections that were not desecrated by illegal lies nor diverted from their course by willful caprice. [applause] These elections were a magificent constitutional declaration of the people's voice, which is above all others. The will of the people is above any other; the people have the first say and they are the decisionmakers.

The people have had their say and made their choice freely, before God and for the homeland. I congratulate you all — supporters, opponents, and independents — on having gained the people's confidence. The people have expressed themselves and made their choice conscientiously, of their own free will, showing that right and truth are supreme. The people have had their say and chosen those who stand for their principles, views, aspirations, and visions, and will exercise legislative powers for the people and in their name. These powers organize the people's productive and social relations, protect their sanctities, and supervise the operations of the government for the achievement of democracy under this sacred dome. The people have had their say and chosen the People's Assembly, which is holding its first session today, heralding a new era, in which the edifice of democracy will be expanded and its foundations strengthened. Thus, the People's Assembly will truly be the home of the people and not just a slogan. Thus, every citizen will feel that this home is the haven and refuge to which he may turn for shelter. This will allow law to prevail, social justice to spread, and the bonds of love and fraternity to grow stronger among the sons of the same homeland. Thus, national unity will become the strong shield safeguarding stability in the service of development and prosperity. [applause]

I feel that I am stating no more than the truth when I say that the task of a member of the People's Assembly will be very clear to him when he answers the question he should ask himself each day: What do the people want me to do? A sincere answer to this question and an honest commitment to its purpose constitute the yardstick by which the people will judge the action of each of you, as well as your collective work. This is the criterion by which the people will appraise the success of this assembly as the representative of the people's power, as stipulated by the Constitution. What the people want from their representatives are not hidden secrets, obscure demands, or impossible dreams. Certainly, during your election tours and your talks with the masses, you all realized what the people really want and what they are looking forward to achieving.

I decided that in my speech today I would express or describe what it is that the people want from the People's Assembly. This may be summed up as follows:

First and foremost, the people want an assembly that works, with members who, whatever their views, strive for one goal — achievement. The previous People's Assembly accomplished a great deal. It would be unfair to belittle the efforts of anyone. We should declare this principle and give credit where it is due. However, I imagine there are several important issues that await your enthusiastic attention at an early date, but not before there has been thorough discussion and investigation. The people want the assembly members to free themselves from partisan interests in their discussions of public affairs and problems. The difficulties facing the people are those that face Egypt. The people's representatives have the job of treating these problems with realistic solutions and a creative approach, within the bounds of the possible. This is the right path that will protect us from maneuvering in setting forth remedies, from one-upmanship in proposing impossible solutions, and from closing our eyes and minds to the realities before us. I say to you: Do not ignore a problem from which the people are suffering, as ignoring it will not make it go away. I also say to you: Do not allow biased partisan views to motivate you to create problems. No matter how loudly the voice of emotion is raised, it cannot create a problem that does not exist. [applause]

You have several enormous tasks to undertake this year and in the coming years of this legislative term. They include preparing the next 5-year plan, endorsing it, and seeing it through, so that rates of performance may increase, another point of departure may be set for the public and private sectors to boost output and improve the quality of products, and the agricultural sector may be enabled to achieve our ambition of making a large part of Egypt's deserts bloom. All this requires a fair scrutiny of the accomplishments of the current 5-year plan, which is nearing its end, so that we may assess the economic and social objectives of the new plan in light of the general circumstances in which our march is taking place, both at home and abroad.

We all know that our path is not strewn with roses. It is a very difficult road on which we have had to face extremely difficult foreign factors. We managed to get past the harsh beginning last year. Our achievements have never come to a halt. Thanks to Egypt's workers, the wheel of production turned with high rates of performance that were reassuring and satisfactory. The process of modernizing industry and agricultural systems has continued. We have laid down a comprehensive economic reform program, and we have reconsidered the educational system and the cultural climate in Egypt. These are great tasks that will undoubtedly leave their mark on the future of this noble country. Oil prices started to increase slightly after the sharp decline, which hurt us. There have been some positive signs of a rise in revenue from tourism. Efforts to attract Arab and foreign capital have been stepped up. All this proves to us that serious work leads to serious results regardless of the obstacles. Also related to this are the problems of wages and prices, the modernization of services, and other problems that you, together with the masses, face every day.

You are in the vanguard of those dealing with these problems. We are called upon to free ourselves from partisan interests. [applause] We must use a variety of opinions, ideas, and expertise in arriving at sound decisions that serve the interests of the workers and those with low incomes, and respect their right to a dignified life, which we ultimately seek for all.

We have come a long way toward achieving economic reform and have surmounted many barriers. We are about to conclude an agreement with the IMF that will open the road to rescheduling our debts. This will enable us to proceed with our development plan and to bridge the gap in the balance of payments in the years to come.

I have ardently hoped that the irresponsible talk about debts and loans will come to an end. We have evidence, official documents, and figures that prove the loans we have received have not been squandered or spent on things other than those stipulated in international agreements. Any show of one-upmanship in this respect will waste our time, distort the true picture of the matter, and cast unjustified and futile doubts on the issue.

We found the guidelines of our foreign policy, just as those of our domestic policy, on ethical values and principles and not on the basis of opportunism and cheap practices. Therefore, we do not change our colors or positions, and we do not turn our back on a friend who stands beside us. Nor do we see any benefit in such an alleged transformation, as it contradicts the stability that is the cornerstone of Egypt's efforts, both at home and abroad, and detracts from our prestige in the world.

I deeply regret the fact that a party paper has deliberately attempted to distort the picture and falsify the facts related to this issue, saying that Egypt is now experiencing a sudden change in its foreign policy according to which it will alter its friendships and inclinations. The paper claimed that this change was due to the fact that a specific state has turned down Egypt's economic demands. The paper's editors were so imaginative as to speak of upcoming visits to a certain state by senior Egyptian officials, in defiance of another state. Whose interest does this serve? I leave that question to you. National duty, if not honesty in writing, should have obliged any Egyptian to avoid involvement in such immature and irresponsible talk, which damages our policy and distorts our prestige. It would not have been difficult for those who edited and published this demagoguery to realize that Egypt does not swing or oscillate in its policies [applause], and that it does not turn from one state to another. The principle to which we are committed is the establishment of friendly and cooperative relations with all peoples and nations [applause] that share the same desire and express a willingness to respect our policies and preserve our dignity.

It has now become established in both our theory and practice that we will not establish relations with any given country at the expense of another. We will not turn our backs on a friendly country just because another state has shown sympathy toward us.

Brothers and sisters, as we now prepare for the second development plan, we must turn our eyes and minds to the future. We must embark on a plan of action and achievement. There is no room here for partisan maneuvers or speeches seeking to exploit the suffering of the masses. Cohesion in the pursuit of positive achievements is the only language we must use at this point. It must occupy all of our time and consume our efforts and resources.

That which has been accomplished in the last few years, under very severe conditions, is a source of pride for every Egyptian. When international institutions take note of our accomplishments and see them as evidence of our seriousness and stability, it is disgraceful that some Egyptian voices are going out of their way to belittle and distort, and to shake the confidence of the people. The atmosphere of stability our country enjoys has helped to bring about the achievements we are so proud of. Stability is the foundation of every accomplishment and every solution. The noble and good-natured Egyptian people consciously recognize and appreciate the truth of the strides we have taken. Inasmuch as these noble people have protected our stability with positive stands against reckless attempts to damage it, I have no doubt that the people's representatives will be the leading advocators of stability and will be the first to strengthen it and secure its continuity. They will act to guarantee that it remains strong, deep-rooted, and expressive of a cohesive society that meets hardship with action, surmounts obstacles with sweat and toil, and builds ever higher with a deep belief in the present and the future.

A cohesive society is a society of national unity. The society of national unity rejects advocates of division and the voices of sedition. The society of national unity vehemently refuses any external or internal infiltration that harbors or infuses evil within this secure and noble country.

Attempts to cause division and sedition are doomed to failure and destruction. They are alien to our history, traditions, and tolerance. They are too weak to challenge the feelings of millions, the security of their lives, and the strength of their unity.

Egypt, which is the conqueror of invaders and tyrants; Egypt, whose martyrs, Muslim and Copt alike, raced to defend it with their souls and blood; Egypt, one nation and one united people; great and immortal Egypt will resist with all its strength and that of its sons any frenzied conspiracy against its stability and safety. [applause]

Lofty Egypt, Egypt the light, Egypt the free, Egypt that respects the messages of heaven, can never be harmed by the forces of darkness. [applause] Some people abroad may have misinterpreted the events that took place in certain cities, or have had them misrepresented to them. To these people we say: The facts will stand by themselves. The great fact about Egypt is that we are a people of love and amity. We are a people of virtue and religion. We are a people known for prudence, friendliness, and mercy.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council: If the people call on you to defend stability, and if stability and achievement are two sides of the same coin — development, increase in production, and job opportunities — I am sure that the people want their representatives to take the priorities of the working plan into account.

There is no doubt that you share my opinion that a comprehensive reconsideration of educational policy in all its stages is one of the most important priorities to which we must direct our attention. [applause]

The rise of technology in the developed world dictates that educational programs in Egypt be in line with what is taking place internationally. Therefore, we must, as soon as possible, train our teachers, choose sound programs, and prepare our educational institutions to integrate this technology.

We must not forget the most important part of this — namely, that education in its successive stages must be a tool to build the Egyptian, shape his personality, and develop his skills. Educational institutions are the best environment in which to raise our sons in close familiarity with the virtues of religion and ethics; in honest identity with family and society; in continuing vigilance regarding heritage and traditions; in the true history of the Egyptian people's struggle for freedom and independence; in mature understanding of the values of freedom and democracy; and in the observance of right, duty, and law.

Educational programs designed to keep up with the development of scientific research must take the characteristics of the Egyptian personality into consideration. We want our young people to embark on productive careers, contributing to their society with science and knowledge. We want young people to be sane human beings, properly integrated into their society. Hence, we must protect them from the dangers that are poisoning various societies and turning into an epidemic that threatens their very existence. The reform and the construction going on in Egypt is for the young. In our work, we do not differentiate between various generations. We do not sacrifice the present generation for the sake of future ones. Our work is governed by cohesion and communication between fathers and sons. The policy of increased production means that our young people must produce in an atmosphere of love of work and of the homeland. Democratic construction means that our young people must look to their hopes and dreams as they enjoy their freedom, exercise their free will, and take part in decision making. I am confident that the People's Assembly and Consultative Council will make an efficient and optimal contribution to promoting the message of advanced education.

This is not the first time we have talked about priorities in this building. You are all aware that we are on the threshold of a great struggle in land reclamation, approaching self-sufficiency in food, providing youth with a great opportunity to conquer the desert, and creating an atmosphere of trust for investments of various kinds.

Brothers and sisters: I believe that the people expect the members of the new People's Assembly, of all parties, to set an example by their actions and behavior. Truthfulness, honesty of intent, positive dialogue, and true sympathy with the aspirations of the masses are your tools and weapons in the battle for construction. They are the criteria by which the masses will judge you, favorably or unfavorably.

The election campaign, with all its disputes, is over. The voices which, legitimately, made exaggerated claims, as is normal in such campaigns, have died down. You all took your seats by the will of the people. Here begins the biggest and most worthy responsibility. There is no room in this building for competing for a place or fighting for an interest. Your consistent voice, your competing dialogue, and your contesting action are for the people, all the people, those who voted as well as those who did not.

I hope with all my heart that your parliamentary work will further promote enlightened traditions, with views exchanged between supporters and opponents in an objective fashion, with due respect, and in complete harmony with the public interest, which comes before any other consideration. The effects of what happens under this dome will go beyond the limits of time and place and influence the masses and the consciousness of the young. Therefore, the horizons of democracy will expand day after day to include all the various democratic groups and organizations in the country. The people can no longer accept anything other than enlightened democratic practice leading to sound participation in decision making.

Since the votes that put you into these seats are a great expression of Egypt's voice, your work here mirrors Egypt's bright image through your efforts and loyalty to human rights. In your expression of Egypt's views, thoughts, heritage, and traditions, you are a true reflection of the country — the Egypt of cohesion, freedom, and democracy. [applause]

This People's Assembly, by its actions and by the positive example its members will set, is the greatest bastion of freedom and democracy. Thus, we can say we are living a democratic life and not merely going through democratic practice, as some claim. We have gone beyond the stage of experiment to the road of real life. Life is continuous growth and the life of peoples is the continuation of successive generations. It is by our will that we can enrich our lives more and more. It is in our hands. By enriching our lives further we make new gains. The real gain is to believe that the democratic life is one of legitimacy, rule of law, and respect for sanctities. The democratic life is to be found in a sound balance between the citizen's rights and duties in society. For each right there is a corresponding duty, and any oppression of the freedom of others is a blow to the freedom of society as a whole. Obtaining a right and fulfilling a duty are legitimate activities open to all citizens without discrimination.

Any disruption of these principles, which constitute the mainstay of democracy and freedom, is a waste of democracy and a severe blow to freedom. There will be no compromise over this. I will deal directly with anyone who deviates from the law, no matter how he conceals his sins behind slogans that sound appealing but are replete with the most evil intentions. [applause]

There will be neither mercy, leniency, nor cooperation; [applause] there will be no cooperation, only swift, decisive confrontation. This is what the people want, [applause] and that is what we hope will constitute the pillars of the People Assembly's efforts. We hope the People's Assembly will defend democracy and freedom against any evil or aggression violating our national dignity.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council: I hope I did not talk too much. At the end of my speech...[voices interrupt Mubarak] I will give another speech on 1 May. In conclusion, I repeat my sincerest congratulations to each one of you for the confidence the masses have shown in you. [applause] [indistinct voice in the background] Thank you very much. I congratulate the speaker of the People's Assembly, who is known for his ability, honesty, efficiency, and dedication. [applause] I also extend my congratulations to the members of the People's Assembly Bureau, wishing you all every success and prosperity. I am fully confident and hopeful that you will shoulder your responsibilities without delay, in the name of the people and for the interests of the people, and that the pan-Arab cause will be the first and last objective in your research and discussions. [applause]

I hope that the relationship between the majority and the opposition will serve as an example of the interaction of democracy, which gives all members an equal opportunity to reach sound decisions.

It has been our destiny to live through years of enormous transformations in our economic, social, and political course. We have been destined to face accumulations of great problems. We are playing a vanguard role in a region rife with disputes, divisions, and threats of war as well as conflicts among the big powers. We will not seek to avoid our fate, ever, nor will we try to evade confrontations and encounters. Never. This would never be. [applause]

We must fulfill the trust that has been placed in us. We swore to shoulder its responsibilities with honesty, integrity, and honor. We will not give way before difficulties, tremble before troubles and obstacles, or engage in maneuvers. We will keep to a straightforward policy and a clear and direct course. We do not conceal the facts from the people, nor cover up any wrongdoing, nor protect any deviation. We pray to God Almighty to guide us. [indistinct voices in the background] We ask God Almighty to guide us and help us with his wisdom and blessings and always strengthen our faith so we can overcome the weakness of the soul, redress our shortcomings, and correct our mistakes. God listens and responds. May God grant us success in serving our country. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Views PNC Session, U.S. Visit

NC231205 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA) — Upon departing the People's Assembly Hall this morning, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with reporters. In his remarks, the president asserted that the PLO will never turn its back on its relations with Egypt. The president stated: I am certain of this.

Responding to a question on the decisions made by the various Palestinian factions at their meeting in Algiers, President Mubarak said: I have no comment on this right now. Let us wait until the PNC meetings are over.

The president emphasized that Egypt's Arabism is beyond doubt and comes before everything else. He affirmed that Egypt is a leading state that can always support the Palestinian cause.

Replying to a question on a possible visit to the United States in the near future, President Mubarak noted that certain domestic issues, such as the economic problem, will occupy him in the upcoming period. However, he declared that contacts with the United States have not been interrupted. The president asked: Does the fact I am not now paying a visit to the United States necessitate an unrealistic interpretation on the part of some people? The president added: Contacts between us are continuing; they have never stopped.

When asked about the delayed agreement with the IMF, President Mubarak explained that Egypt's talks with the IMF are proceeding along the proper course. He noted that Egypt will not make any decision unless it accords with its interests. Any such decision will be made freely and in good time.

Responding to a question about a forthcoming visit to Sudan, President Mubarak said that he will travel to that country at the proper time when circumstances permit. Nothing stands in the way of such a trip, he added.

Commenting on reports published in a certain partisan newspaper to the effect that the Egyptian people's interests are tied to a superpower with which Egypt has no links, like those that tie it to the other power, the president said: I was elected president by the Egyptian people. I protect their interests. I am fully aware of these interests, and I work for them night and day.

AL-AHRAM Condemns Syrian 'Interference' With PLO

JN230915 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Apr 87 p 7

[Editorial: "The Tough Guy"]

[Text] There are signs of a new anti-Egyptian campaign by certain elements and foreign regimes at the new PNC session. These pressures are primarily designed to enmesh the PLO in the traditional chaos. This will prevent its resolutions from meeting the lowest expectations and, they hope, contain its march within the power of others. It is unfortunate that some should try to use Egypt as an instrument for bargaining and imposing wishes in the same previous, abortive, despicable manner, which led to isolation, negativism, and incompetence they should have avoided. We hear that the Syrian regime, for instance, proposes to restore accord and normality to the PLO leadership if it severs its relations with Egypt. While these leaders are trying to mobilize all possible support to return to the so-called golden age of Palestinian-Syrian relations, without any objection from Egypt, Damascus insists on assuming the image of the incriminator, avenger, and tough guy who wants the entire PLO to move at his smallest order. Thus, Damascus proposes three impossible conditions to PLO leaders: give up Egypt, abrogate the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, and reject Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In other words, it wants the PLO to cancel everything it has achieved thus far and return to square one. It should also move, if possible, whenever Al-Asad blows his whistle.

Thus, it was not surprising for some of the originally intransigent voices to soften and see an example of direct interference in the heart of Palestinian sovereignty. These voices also regarded what had been done as an attempt by the minority, which echoes Syria's opinion, to impose its views on the majority. The majority's opinion stems from a just, realistic principle: The restoration of relations with an Arab state should not be at the expense of its ties with another. The permanent and strategic Palestinian objective is to establish or normalize relations with all governments on an equal basis. We do not believe any rational party inside or outside the Palestinian camp would agree to the unfair conditions intended to contain the PLO and usurp its stands. The price being offered is merely a mirage or a fistful of sand.

Armed Forces Report Air, Sea Victories

Nine Gunboats Sunk

JN231550 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,651 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great, praise be to God. O lofty Iraqis, each day you score a new victory on land, the sea, and in the air. Each day vile hopes and ambitions are dashed thanks to the heroic struggle of your gallant sons. At 1030 today the enemy attempted to send some 50 gunboats loaded with scoundrels and armed with 106-mm guns and other medium weapons to attack the port of Al-'Amiq. Our daring naval units poured the wrath of God and Iraq on the enemy and destroyed six of his boats with their scoundrels.

At 1250 today, the enemy sent out one of its large naval vessels to cover up its heinous defeat and ugly face. Our men were lying in wait for them. They said: Here we are, our Arab gulf. They dealt the enemy vessel a devastating missile blow, sending it to the bottom of the Gulf and sending its scoundrels to hell, a wretched end. Our forward observation posts and boats saw the explosions and smoke billowing from it.

At 1440 today, the enemy dispatched a second group of boats. Our lions confronted them and sank two, with those aboard.

At 1500 today the Al-'Amiq port force engaged the enemy boats, giving the best support to our naval vessels. Another boat with its scoundrels was sunk. Thus, nine enemy boats were sunk in addition to one of the desperate Iranian fleet vessels, the crew of which was responsible for directing and supporting its foiled operation. The enemy remnants fled and the situation was settled in favor of our victorious forces. O scoundrel Khomeyniites, you will have bad luck in confronting lofty Iraq in all fields. God willing, we will triumph over you everywhere and anytime. Blessed be the brave men of our Navy — commanders, officers, and men. Blessed be the brave men of the Navy and the force of Al-'Amiq port — commanders, officers, and men. Praise be to God for His victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 April 1987

22-23 Apr Operations Cited

JN231645 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1605 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,652 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the determination of men fighting for the sake of God, loyal to their land, concerned about their people's dignity, and brave on the battlefield, the soldiers of truth have continued their heroic combat activities, inflicting heavy losses on the agents of Zionism, the Khomeyniites, affirming to this despotic clique and to its masters that Iraq will always triumph over plots and that the Khomeyniites are dwrafs in the face of Iraq's forces and God-supported struggle.

The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. In the I Army Corps northern sector, our brave men continued to destroy enemy troops, smashing more scoundrels each day and destroying their war machine. Our victorious forces demolished 54 infantry positions and 6 vehicles loaded with personnel. They inflicted heavy losses on the enemy scoundrels, and on their weapons and equipment.

2. Our gigantic Air Force continued to pour Iraq's wrath on the Zionist, anti-Arab clique, chopping off more rotten heads, destroying their equipment and weapons, and demolishing the shelters over their heads. Our valiant hawks carried out 82 combat missions against enemy units in the operational areas. Our hawks then returned safely to the homeland in God's care and protection.

3. The knights of our helicopter gunships continued to destroy the aggressors' remnants. Each day our knights strike enemy positions, weapons, and equipment. Today, our knights carried out 131 combat sorties in which they inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. Our knights then returned safely to base in God's care.

4. To destroy the enemy and cause greater losses to his units, our brave men in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah continued to deal blows to enemy positions and assembly points. The brave men of our artillery also attacked the enemy's rear lines, inflicting heavy losses on the aggressors. They also accomplished the following: The burning and destruction of a tank; the demolition of five ammunition dumps; the destruction of two shovels, [preceding word in English]a bulldozer, a launcher, three vehicles, one of which was loaded with ammunition, and four infantry positions; and the killing of 20 enemy personnel who attempted to approach one of our posts.

5. Our units in the VII Army Corps dealt effective blows to the enemy positions before them. They also attacked enemy engineering works and vehicles, inflicting the following losses: The destruction of 11 infantry positions, killing their crews; 1 vehicle loaded with ammunition and a shovel [preceding word in English], the demolition of 7 ammunition dumps and the destruction of an observation post.

6. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Tigris, a mortar was destroyed and its crew killed, and one ammunition dump was destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 April 1987

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN240824 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Military spokesman's statement dated 24 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave hawks embody the will of the great Iraqi people by destroying all oil resources, which are exploited by the aggressive Iranian regime for its evil purposes. At 0940 today, our courageous hawks carried out a successful raid on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast and dealt it an accurate, effective blow. They then returned with their planes safely to the homeland, praise be to God.

2d Target Hit; Plane Downed

JN241240 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1213 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 24 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Continuous blows to the Iranian rulers, who insist on their mistaken course, are the best punishment for those tyrants. After all, they are insisting on continuing the war and aggression against our country. To destroy the enemy's oil resources, our gigantic Air Force carried out a successful raid on a second large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1325 today and dealt it an accurate, effective blow.

While performing their duty, our valiant hawks spotted an enemy plane. They dealt it a direct blow and downed it. It was seen falling in flames. Our hawks and their aircraft returned safely to the homeland. God be praised. Blessed be our valiant hawks. God be praised for His victory.

Jordanian House Speaker Arrives in Baghdad

JN221956 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1831 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Apr (INA) — 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit to Iraq slated to last several days. In a statement, Al-Fayiz said he will discuss ways of promoting cooperation between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Jordanian House of Representatives. The current Arab situation will be examined as well.

Al-Fayiz reaffirmed Jordan's support for Iraq in its honorable defense not only of its territory and sovereignty against the Iranian onslaught, but also of the Arab nation's eastern flank.

Parliamentary Talks Begin

JN231518 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 23 Apr 87

Baghdad, April 23, INA — Parliamentary talks today started here between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Inter-Arab Parliamentary Union.

The talks were chaired by Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly and Mr. 'Akif al-Fayiz, chairman of the Inter-arab Parliamentary Union Council and speaker of the Jordanian House of Deputies.

The two sides talks touched on promoting Arab parliamentary relations and boosting the Inter-Arab Parliamentary Council leading to upgrading joint Arab action.

In a speech on the occasion, Dr. Hammadi lauded Jordan's patriotic and honourable stand of backing Iraq in confronting the Zionist-Iranian aggression.

Mr. al-Fayiz renewed Jordan stand alongside Iraq in defence of its territory and the Arab nation and his condemnation to the treacherous attitudes of some Arab regimes in their complicity with the Zionist-Iranian enemy.

Cooperation Minutes With Mauritania Signed

JN181806 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1723 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA) — Iraq and Mauritania signed the minutes of the fifth session of the Iraqi-Mauritanian Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation here this evening. The minutes were signed for Iraq by Muhammad Fadil Husayn, minister of housing and reconstruction, and for Mauritania by Sidi Ould Sheykh Abdellahi, minister of fisheries and maritime economy.

The minutes will regulate cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the economic, cultural, media, and technical sectors. It will also stimulate bilateral cooperation in the fisheries area through the Iraqi-Mauritanian company for fisheries.

Muhammad Fadil Husayn and Sidi Ould Sheykh Abdellahi expressed their profound satisfaction with the outcome of the committee's session and the decision to broaden relations between the two fraternal states. The signing ceremony was attended by the two delegations and the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Mauritanian Minister Departs

JN200921 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 APR 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA) — Sidi Ould Sheykh Abdallahi, Mauritanian minister of fisheries and maritime economy, left Baghdad last night after visiting Iraq for several days. The minister led his country's delegation to the recent meetings of the fifth session of the Joint Iraqi-Mauritanian Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation.

Interior Minister Returns From PNC Session

JN230958 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA) — Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud, Iraqi RCC member and interior minister, returned to Baghdad at dawn today after leading the Iraqi delegation to the 18th PNC session, which is continuing in Algiers. The delegation also included Nuri Isma'il Luwayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary, director of the Arab Liberation Movements office at the RCC, and chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the Iraqi National Assembly.

King Husayn Receives Visiting U.S. Delegation

JN231810 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received an American delegation at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The group includes businessmen, journalists, and politicians visiting Jordan as part of a tour of the Middle East.

During the meeting, his majesty reviewed the latest political developments in the Middle East and efforts to hammer out a just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute. His majesty said Jordan sees an international Middle East peace conference as the best way to reach a settlement. He also stressed the importance of the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all those involved in the dispute. His Majesty King Husayn explained Jordan's views on U.S. policy in the Middle East in general and the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular. His majesty emphasized that action must be taken to restore security and stability to the area. He pointed out that the United States can play a more effective role through positive participation in endeavors to reach this goal.

The meeting was also attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Official, Paper Discuss PLO Accord Abrogation

Al-Masri on Commitment

JN230750 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Apr 87 p 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said Monday Jordan remained committed to a PLO role in Arab-Israeli peace efforts despite the PLO's abrogation of the Feb. 11 accord.

"Jordan is committed to the peace process until the convening of an international conference. The Palestinians and the PLO are a main, integral part of that process," Mr. al-Masri said in a taped interview in Amman with the Mutual Radio network. The interview was quoted by the Associated Press.

"No matter what the PNC meeting concludes, we will still remain committed to the Palestinian issue, the peace process and to the participation of the PLO in that process," Mr. al-Masri said.

Mr. al-Masri said Jordan "signed the Amman accord with the PLO in 1985 to lessen the obstacles that will face the participation of the PLO" in peace talks.

Mr. al-Masri said he remained confident of movement towards the peace conference sought by Jordan.

"The efforts are intensifying on all fronts now, including the American front," he said.

"The idea of convening an international conference is accepted now by all the parties, including Israel and the United States.

"We still have some difference with the United States and Israel, but we hope through continuing dialogue with the United States that we will overcome such differences."

SAWT AL-SHA'B Urges Summit

JN231300 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Apr 87 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "For the Sake of Formulating a New Phase"]

[Text] As recognized by all Arab and international parties, the Amman agreement was a mechanism for the Arab peace plan. That plan is represented by the Fes summit resolutions, as they are the essence of the Arab move toward a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The PLO's abrogation of this accord also cancels the mechanism of this important Arab initiative, an initiative which has contributed to the creation of an appropriate international climate and has helped efforts to hold an international peace conference to settle the region's problems in general and the Palestinian question in particular.

From this premise and in light of international reaction to the cancellation of the Amman agreement, there is an urgent need to convene an Arab summit, as the abrogation of this accord is the end of an era that should be assessed. Moreover, bases for an Arab move in the new phase should be laid down.

This new phase has many positive changes, including the emergence of the Soviet role in a clearer way concerning its attempts to hold an international conference, as well as the UN initiative to hold a meeting among representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, which is an important indicator. These positive changes also include the recent Brussels statement issued by the European Community; the favorable development of America's stand on convening an international conference; and the growing differences between the two wings of the Israeli Government, the Likud and the Alignment, over the international conference. Observers see these differences as an attempt by the Alignment to hold early elections that would result in a government of only one faction in light of the growing moderate trend in Israeli society.

The Arabs must contemplate all these factors, revise their calculations, and generate a momentum that conforms with the international climate. This is not only designed to promote such approaches and add new ideas to them but also to discuss the chances for real achievements on the ground. After all, Israel's arbitrary practices against our kinfolk and land in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan, and southern Lebanon are greatly escalating in a bid to create a new situation that would increase the obstacles to peace.

The simultaneous closure of three universities in the occupied territories, the continued confiscation of Arab lands, the increased building of settlements, and the practice of terrorism against our people there all contribute to the imposition of the Israeli option on the entire region. In addition, they negate attempts by all parties to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the area's problems. The substance of these efforts ensures the removal of the danger posed to the entire world by this region.

It has become clear that time is not on the Arabs' side and that Arab problems are increasing and deepening. Hence, an Arab summit, which should be attended by everyone and held at the head of state level, is an urgent need dictated by pan-Arab interests and the latest international developments. We need a summit to curb widespread inter-Arab differences and to prevent any extremist stands from terminating the positive results of the recent Arab initiative. That move, which arose from the Fes initiative, is the core of Arab solidarity at a time when, at the least, its termination without any positive results would be a catastrophe, as it would be a phase that brought the world closer to the Israeli option.

Media Continue Coverage of Algiers PNC Session

[Editorial Report] Jordanian radio and television on 22 April continued to ignore the Algiers PNC session in their monitored newscasts. However, the Jordanian press has carried additional reports on the PNC proceedings, citing their own correspondents in Algiers as well as the world and Arab press.

The lead story in the *Jordan Times* is a report from its correspondents in Algiers, highlighting intra-PFLP differences on the question of PLO-Egyptian relations. The *Jordan Times* headline reads: "Qaddumi Spells Out PLO Terms for Attending International Conference." The paper also carries a report citing PETRA on an appeal by Jordan-based Palestinians attending the PNC session in Algiers calling on PNC members to work for stronger Jordanian-Palestinian ties. The three Jordanian Arabic dailies, *Al-Ra'y*, *Sawt al-Sha'b*, and *Al-Dustur* carry the text of this appeal on their front pages.

The three Arabic dailies also devote part of their front pages to the PNC session, quoting their own correspondents and other media. *Al-Ra'y*'s headlines include: "PNC Hears Political and Financial Reports; PLO Adheres to Confederation With Jordan; International Conference is the Option at This Stage and We Participate as an Independent Delegation; PFLP Sticks to its Position on Severing Ties with Egypt."

Al-Ra'y also carries a report on a telephone interview with the PFLP's Abu Mahir al-Yamani in which he denies any split with the PFLP.

Al-Dustur carries a front-page report on Qaddumi's speech at the PNC session under the following headlines: "PNC Committees Begin Drafting Resolutions; Executive Committee Demands Fully Empowered International Conference; Fatah, PFLP Renew Differences Over Ties with Egypt."

Sawt al-Sha'b includes a front-page report on the PNC from its correspondent in Algiers, emphasizing the deliberations and Qaddumi's political report. Headlines read: "PNC Discusses Three Main Reports; Political Reports Affirm PLO Agreement to International Conference; Relations With Egypt Lead to PFLP Withdrawal From Meeting."

In addition, the three Arabic dailies each publish on page 1 a report citing agencies on PLO-Moroccan differences over the Sahara issue. The headline to this story is the same in all papers: "Hassan II Bars Moroccans From Attending Meetings in Which Palestinians Participate."

Editorially, only *Sawt al-Sha'b* discusses Palestinian- related issues with a comment on the abrogation of the Amman accord, calling for an Arab summit to consider the coming phase.

Amman PETRA-JNA carries the appeal by Palestinians in Jordan to the PNC, but remains silent on the session itself.

Israeli Warplanes Continue Sorties Over Sidon

NC231500 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been carrying out reconnaissance flights over the south since 1400 today. This follows mock raids over Sidon and nearby Palestinian camps.

Israel Reportedly Massing Troops in South

NC231523 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Israeli forces have been shelling Sribbin, Kafra, and Yatar intermittently since morning. A security source reported this afternoon that the occupation forces are massing troops along a line running between Yatar, Haddathah, Bra'shit, and Tallusah, and on the adjacent hills.

'Enemy Warships' Off Northern Coast Fired On

NC231713 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] According to eyewitnesses, enemy warships were sailing off the northern coast at noon today. The Tripoli Refinery Police Station has reported that at 1240 today the vessels were fired on from the Al-Baddawi camp and the adjacent hills.

16 Injured in Israeli Raids on Palestinian Camps

NC240626 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Some 20 foreign correspondents have arrived in the Tyre area. Security sources have linked their arrival with talk of an impending Israeli military operation.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters raided Palestinian targets east of Sidon yesterday evening. The 30-minute attack resulted in loss of life and property damage. NNA correspondents in Sidon note that the raid was conducted in two stages. The first was effected at 1730, when four Cobra helicopters struck Jabal al-Halib and the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp east of Sidon. Ten minutes later, Israeli helicopters attacked the areas of Darb al-Sim, Mariya, Al-Basatin, and the hills between Sirub and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, also east of Sidon. Flames and smoke were seen billowing from the targets. Ground defenses used SAM-7 missiles to confront the raiding helicopters. [passage omitted]

According to Palestinian sources, 12 people were injured in the two raids. Four others were wounded when Israeli warplanes fired a rocket at 'Ayn al-Hulwah. [passage omitted]

Junblatt on Terry Waite, Relations With Hizballah

NC231310 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Commenting on relations with Hizballah, Walid Junblatt has stated: We have differences regarding the question of Terry Waite. There is a mystery surrounding the story of this man, a mystery we hope will be solved, God willing. We have always worked with Hizballah.

Commenting on the Beirut fighting, Junblatt said: There can be no defeat or victory in these battles in the absence of an explicit national decision. We must stand by such a decision, which should pertain to Lebanon as a whole. I reiterate that a united civilian political administration must prevail in the areas between Tripoli and Tyre, including the mountain, Sidon, and West Beirut. In my view, this is the only viable plan. [passage omitted]

Interviewed by AL-SAFIR

NC231006 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] PSP Leader Walid Junblatt has called for a national Christian declaration that Lebanon is an Arab state, rather than a home for a certain sect that conspires with Israel whenever it wishes.

In an interview in today's edition of *Al-Safir*, Junblatt said: The Christians must also recognize the political and economic rights of Islamic sects to a real share of power. He expressed the view that the country cannot be united by proposals made in Damascus. A fight for liberation is necessary, as the plan for Lebanon's partition still stands. This plan is based on the concept of a radical Christian statelet, linked with the West and Israel, which would include rival Islamic minorities, he added.

Junblatt noted that Amin al-Jumayyil's reply via Damascus was negative, as he demanded greater authority. Junblatt said: The president is playing for time while he prepares for another military or political round. He is planning to extend [his term of office]. However, I will oppose any extension of Al-Jumayyil's term of office. The country has reached a stalemate as regards prospects for a settlement with the Phalangist Party, which rules the state. Junblatt described the Lausanne conference as a big mistake, and the 1943 formula as fragile. Junblatt added: What is required is a state based on institutions rather than sectarianism. He noted that if power is shared among various sects, the powers of the Maronite president will be diminished, and at the same time this might lead to disputes among Islamic sects.

Junblatt voiced reservations about the question of the rotation of the three main posts, saying: This proposal will do nothing to change the essence of the political system. What the system needs is some kind of power sharing or socialism, particularly in the economic sphere. By rotating the top posts we will simply remain where we are; it will not change a thing. Junblatt went on: If an advanced formula is to be found for the country, the presidency and all other posts must be open to everyone. If a new settlement is to be reached, the presidency may remain with the Christians, but the president may not be a Maronite.

In his interview with *Al-Safir*, Junblatt stated his support for the total abolition of sectarianism and for the provision of guarantees for certain minorities. He said that in addition to the Chamber of Deputies there should be a senate to make decisions on important issues and ensure there is no encroachment on the rights of certain sects.

Commenting on the past experience of national alliance, Junblatt affirmed that it had failed. He declared that more mature political experience should be brought into play to combat the radical, partitionist, Christian plan. He said: If relations with the Amal Movement are to be restored, they must be based on national rather than sectarian principles. There must be a large-scale national movement, and a civilian administration for all areas, from Tripoli to Tyre, and including the mountain area, Sidon, and West Beirut.

Junblatt asserted: Damascus is our main Arab ally. The national forces have need of the Palestinian element, both politically and militarily.

Al-Husayni Announces Ministerial Resolutions

NC231403 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] A short while ago, Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, announced the resolutions passed by the ministers. These are as follows:

The conferees reached agreement to revive the cabinet resolutions. In particular, they decided to appoint a national council for medicines, as agreed in 1983; to set up a national council for evacuees affairs, as established by law; to hand the ports over to the state and close down the illegal ones; to open the crossing points; to instruct the defense minister to ask the Army commander to order the Army to take over the administration of Beirut; to reopen Beirut airport and ensure freedom and safety of travel for all Lebanese; to study the demands of labor; to declare a media truce in order to create a better atmosphere; and to entrust the prime minister and Ministers Joseph Skaf and Joseph al-Hashim with the task of holding further consultations and preparing for the meeting to be held at 0930 next Thursday [30 April].

Replying to a question about a date for reopening the airport, Speaker al-Husayni said: Each minister will deal with the resolutions that concern him. Ministers will cooperate to find the best ways of implementing them.

Sham'un, Ja'ja' Comment

NC232029 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un this evening thanked the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies for inviting the ministers to meet and wished everyone success. But he added: I did not expect the meeting's participants to make any decisions. I was compelled for health reasons to leave the session at Mansur Palace before it ended. The agreement was to prepare an agenda, not to make decisions.

Sham'un added: Decisions were made in my absence. Some of these are easy to understand, others not so easy. As I have stated before, making decisions is not important. What is important is that these decisons can be and are implemented. I doubt very much that these decisions will be implemented, because some of them face a number of difficulties.

Replying to a question, Sham'un said: I share Dr Samir Ja'ja''s opinion on the importance of the issues. I am waiting for the next session to put forward my opinion.

Dr Samir Ja'ja', the Lebanese Forces leader, called tonight for reviving the Cabinet Council before reviving its decisions. He said: How can we revive the decisions of a nonexistent body? He described the ministerial meeting as a get-together solely to maneuver and pass the time. He said: We support a meeting aimed at preparing serious steps and drawing up an agenda for a constitutional cabinet session. He added: The solution lies in a cabinet meeting. If the cabinet does not meet, there are two solutions: Either the deputies shoulder their responsibilities and withdraw their confidence in the government, or the cabinet is forced to resign by the president of the Republic.

Ja'ja' said: We contacted former President Sham'un, who represented us at the meeting. He told us that he does not agree with what was announced. We support Sham'un's stand, which calls for agreement on an agenda for a cabinet meeting.

Asked about his stand on turning administration of Beirut over to the Army, the Lebanese Forces commander said: The Syrian Army presence encompasses 80 percent of Beirut. If the defense minister succeeds in achieving the withdrawal of the Syrian Army and turning West Beirut over to the Lebanese Army, we would have no objection to having the Army take over the administration of Beirut.

Regarding closure of the ports, Ja'ja' recalled that the Lebanese Forces were the first to express willingness to hand over control of the ports and had, in fact, handed them over, but the other side did not reciprocate, retaining control over the Tripoli, Al-Jiyah, Al-Awza'i, and Khaldah ports. He said: We support developing an integrated plan to collect all the state's taxes, including those from the ports. But we reject the presentation of this issue with bad intentions and with the aim of making points.

Commenting on the ministerial meeting's decision to reopen crossing points and remove roadblocks, Ja'ja' said: The crossing points and the roadblocks are not the cause of the crisis but its result. When the reason for their presence is removed, they will disappear. Ja'ja' called for the deployment of the Lebanese Army or an international force to allow for removal of the roadblocks and reopening of the crossing points. He added: But proposing a superficial solution in order to embarrass one another changes nothing.

Regarding the opening of Beirut airport, Ja'ja' accused the prime minister of impeding the work of the technical committee and keeping it from beginning its task. He said: They make a mess of things and then call for accelerated action.

MENA: Al-Asad Adviser Meets Israeli in Vienna

NC231650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Bonn, 23 Apr (MENA) — MENA has learned that direct contact was made between Syria and Israel at the beginning of April. 'Ala' al-Din 'Abidin, adviser to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, met with an Israeli figure at the (Maron) Hotel in Vienna. The meeting was arranged by Rashid al-Rashid, Syrian charge d'affaires in Prague.

Radio Views Importance of Al-Asad's USSR Tour

JN231439 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the friendly Soviet Union is of extreme importance in light of several factors: First, Syrian-Soviet relations have been strengthened in recent years to such an extent that they can be considered an example to be followed in international relations, as they are founded on firm and clear bases free of the unilateral game of interests created by the imperialist system.

Second, Syria's role in the region under the president's leadership is a guarantee for the Arab masses fighting to achieve their goal of a progressive, socialist society. Syria is a steadfast fortress in the face of all storms that sweep the region to impose U.S.-Zionist hegemony on the Middle East.

Third, the firm Soviet policy in support of Arab causes and the Soviet Union's opposition to the policy of imperialist force in the international arena and particularly in the Middle East highlights the importance of strengthening cooperation with the USSR on various political, economic, and strategic levels. After all, the general result of such cooperation will bolster the positions of the Arab liberation movement and enhance the effectiveness of the Soviet role in serving the causes of freedom and peace in the world through the equation created by the growing structure of cooperative relations between Moscow and the Arab liberation forces, foremost of which is Syria.

Fourth, the growing threats to the region as a result of the continued policy of aggression by the Zionist enemy, the special strategic ally of the United States, and the attempt to abort every international move based on international resolutions to bring about a just and lasting peace in the area — the growth in these threats resulting in the convergence of U.S. and Zionist interests and the intensification of the two allies' propensity for aggression — demonstrates the importance of Syria's insistence on strategic parity in the conflict with the Zionist enemy and its ally, the United States. Given its political, military, and social aspects and current regional and international circumstances, such a balance is necessary to strengthen the Arab position in the face of the Zionist and U.S. policy of terrorism, pressure, and threats to carry out new expansionist moves in the region and to end the dilemma faced by the United States in imposing its settlement.

Such a balance is also necessary to strengthen the positions of the world liberation movement before the Reagan administration's policies to use force in international relations.

These basic tenets have been embodied in Syrian-Soviet relations, which have been consolidated largely under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, his vision of the struggle, his management of the regional conflict, and his profound awareness of the link between that conflict and existing international disputes. Within such basic tenets, strengthened by the treaty of friendship and cooperation, any new meeting between the leader Al-Asad and the Soviet leaders takes on special significance in light of the positive results the talks will have for bilateral relations and the region. Events are taking place in a manner that make it one of the hottest areas in the world.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves for Home

LD222039 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus, April 22, IRNA — The Iranian political delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykholeslam left here for Tehran on Tuesday.

The delegation during its three-day visit met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Kuwaiti Cabinet Minister Meets With Khaddam

LD211820 Kuwait KUNA in English 1028 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus, April 21 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid Tuesday discussed with Syrian officials bilateral relations and the current situation in the Arab arena.

Al-Rashid met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Muhammad al-Imadi.

The minister arrived here yesterday to take part in meetings of the sixth session for the conference of ministers in charge of cultural affairs.

Bulgarian Official Concludes 1-Week Visit

JN191319 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Lyubomir Pavlov, Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee member and head of the Bulgarian-Syrian Friendship Society, left Damascus today after a 1-week visit to Syria. His stay included meetings with a number of party and government officials.

He was seen off by Comrade Ahmad Qabalan, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and head of the Syrian-Bulgarian Friendship Society, a number of individuals on the society's executive office staff, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus and his staff.

In a statement, Pavlov told a SANA correspondent that Bulgaria will always support Syria's struggle and its firm stand against imperialism and Zionism. He expressed his satisfaction with the visit's positive results and voiced admiration for Syria's progress in all fields.

Cypriot House Speaker Arrives in Damascus

JN240529 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Vasos Lissaridhis, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives and leader of the Unified Democratic Union of Cyprus-Socialist Party, arrived in Damascus this evening heading a delegation to attend the speech rally that will be held by AAPSO in Damascus on 25 April. It is also a show of solidarity with Syria's struggle on the occasion of a session devoted to celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution.

People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi headed the party that welcomed Lissaridhis and his delegation. The group was also received by Ahmad al-As'ad, deputy chairman of the Syrian Arab Solidarity Committee; Sulayman Haddan, head of the European Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; some members of the Executive Bureau of the Solidarity Committee; the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus; and the Cypriot Embassy staff.

In a statement, Lissaridhis expressed his great joy at the chance to visit Syria again and emphasized that the two friendly states are bound by very strong ties. He also referred to the importance of the symposium that will be held in Damascus in a show of solidarity with Syria, which is being subjected to hostile imperialist and Zionist conspiracies. It emphasizes the solidarity of the Republic of Cyprus — people and government — with Syria in its militant stands against any provocation designed to undermine its militant, pro-liberation, and progressive struggle.

Labor Party Adopts Resolution on Settlements

TA231621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The Labor Party Bureau this evening adopted a resolution stating that the future of the Jewish settlements in densely populated Arab areas in Judaea and Samaria should be decided in negotiations with Jordan. The Bureau also decided that the status and security importance of the settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley and on the northern border is preferable to that of other settlements. The Bureau also backed Yitzhaq Rabin's defense policy and attacked the unrestrained criticism, as they phrased it, voiced by Gush Emunim, Tehiya, and the Likud spokesmen.

Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that during the discussion, Minister Rabin said that the land on which the settlements of Alfe Menashe and Ari'el are located is territory over which negotiations will be held when the time comes.

Rabin Settlement Remarks Provoke 'Amazement'

TA231840 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Likud Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar has said that the defense minister's remarks on Alfe Menashe and Ari'el should be viewed with extreme gravity. This is in conflict with the Cabinet's policy and basic guidelines, and this leaves no common ground for the Likud and the Labor Party to sit together at the Cabinet table, he said.

The National Religious Party [NRP] this evening issued a statement of disappointment and amazement at the defense minister's comments, saying that Mr Rabin is rubbing salt into the wounds of the Judaea and Samaria settlers, and instead of encouraging settlement, he is helping those who wish ill upon the country.

Rabin Clarifies Policy

TA240519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Razi Barqay; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Barqay] Mr Rabin, what did you mean when you said that Ari'el and Alfe Menashe are of no security importance?

[Rabin] I tried to explain our policy in the territories as I understand it. First, I defined the situation of the territories. Their legal and political status was approved by all the governments with no decisions having been made. The decision will be made when we reach peace negotiations with Jordan. Naturally there are different views on what the fate of these settlements should be. This is also embedded in the current government's basic guidelines. Second, regarding settlement, this is of value within itself. As far as security importance is concerned, I explained what my position has been all along: The settlements along the confrontation lines between us and those Arab countries with which we do not live in peace — those along the Lebanese border, in the Golan Heights, the Jordan Rift Valley, the Bet She'an Valley, and the 'Arava — constitute security settlements. I said that Ari'el has the same degree of security importance as 'Afula, and Ari'el and Alfe Menashe are of no security importance.

[Barqay] Are Ari'el and Alfe Menashe settlements that, as far as the Alignment's position is concerned, would not be included in the Allon Plan — that is, settlements that could be returned?

[Rabin] I did not discuss this issue. I said that the Labor Party's position is based on the principles of the Allon Plan; I have always believed in this plan, and continue to do so to this day.

[Barqay] But these two settlements are located in Samaria.

[Rabin] I am not bargaining with you. I said that the fate of the territories will be determined when negotiations on peace are reached, and it depends which government will be in power at that time.

[Barqay] One of the participants at the Labor Party Bureau meeting was a representative of Ari'el, and he publicly exhibited letters which, according to him, he received from Labor leaders, and claimed that this settlement was indeed established with your blessing. You then replied that he never received a letter from you.

[Rabin] Indeed, he did not receive any letter from me.

[Barqay] In other words, this settlement was established without your approval?

[Rabin] It was not established without my approval; it was not established with my approval. It was not established during the term of an Alignment government.

[Barqay] In principle, do you favor the establishment of settlements at the site where Ari'el and Alfe Menashe are located?

[Rabin] Look, according to the coalition agreement within the national unity government, agreement must be reached between the two large political bodies on the establishment of new settlements. Judge the situation in the past 2 years, and you will see for yourself what has happened.

[Barqay] Mr Defense Minister, it appears as though you are being attacked, mainly from the right, in the wake of the tragic incident in Alfe Menashe and other incidents. Do you not think that your political views have changed?

[Rabin] Sir, my views have always been and continue to be the same. As long as there are no negotiations on peace, terrorism is the main obstacle against which we must fight an unrelenting war — within the law. At the same time we must take care of the Arab residents who are not participants in terrorism and improve their quality and standard of living. This has been, is, and will continue to be my policy.

Shamir Sees Need for More Settlements

TA231733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The prime minister said in Alfe Menashe today: Our lives are not determined by the distance or time it takes people to drive to the settlements. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports that Mr Shamir declared that the Cabinet is responsible for the defense of all the inhabitants of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We know that there is no dispute and there are no disagreements on security matters. On this issue there are no political differences of opinion. The Cabinet is responsible for the welfare of all of Israel's inhabitants, throughout Eretz Yisra'el. [applause] This does not call for applause; this is the reality in which we live. There is not a shadow of a doubt on this. Would anyone argue that our lives are determined by the distance or the time [it takes to cross the Green Line]? Insofar as Israel's defense commitment, there is no difference between the residents of Kefar Sava and those of Alfe Menashe.

[Ginosar] As for the demand that more settlements be added, the prime minister said at the end of the tour:

[Shamir] This is a special problem, which was given attention in various clauses in the coalition agreement. As a rule, I believe that every accord should be honored, but in view of what is happening and in light of what has been said, I believe that it will be necessary to increase the number of settlements as well. [end recording]

Peres: 'Hurdles' to Conference Now Removed

TA231819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, and said that the prospects of holding an international conference are now more likely than ever, adding that it may be necessary to go to the people and ask them to decide on the conference. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports:

[Begin recording] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres faced the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today with optimism, full of favorable assessments: The hurdles on the road to an international conference have been removed. All the sides — including the United States and the Soviet Union — now agree that it would not have the power to force anything on the parties. After the opening, negotiations will actually be held in the framework of bipartisan committees. Another stumbling block, the representation of the Palestinians, has also been removed, and Jordan and Syria agree that the PLO can no longer be considered a possible candidate for this. The Soviet Union is prepared to play a role in promoting peace, and if the rules of the game in the Middle East are set, the Soviets will not hesitate to join in. In short, either progress is made toward peace this year, or the entire process will be delayed by at least 2 or 3 years.

Not many other speakers shared Mr Peres' optimism. Dan Meridor and Yosi Sarid both sounded skeptical about Mr Peres' assessments that a peace conference is imminent. Yosi Sarid pledged that, if Mr Peres' vision materializes, he will march up to the main square in town to pronounce that he knows nothing about politics. The atmosphere in the session was at times tense. At one point, Mr Peres exploded at remarks made by Knesset Member Goldstein, who accused him of simply not getting used to the fact that he is not prime minister. You, the great psychologist, Goldstein, Peres remarked, why you have not even got a certificate! And that is the truth. [end recording]

Likud: Conference Idea No Longer Relevant

TA231024 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Apr 87 pp 1, 12

[Report by Roni Shaqed, Bina Barzel, and Washington correspondent Erol Guiney]

[Excerpts] Shim'on Peres believes there is a real chance of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East, and that immediately after this direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel will be launched without PLO participation. On the other hand, the Prime Minister's Office claims that the abrogation of the "Amman agreement" between Jordan and the PLO is like "another nail in the coffin of the international conference," because King Husayn will not dare come to negotiations without the PLO. [passage omitted]

People in the Prime Minister's Office yesterday reacted with derision to Peres' claim that the radicalization in the PLO position, which was expressed by the abrogation of the "Amman agreement," will lead the inhabitants of the territories to enter negotiations along with Jordan. Shamir's aides said that "in fact Peres now has no alternative other than to sit down to negotiations with the PLO if he wants to implement the idea of the conference. However, it is hard to believe that Peres will agree to sit with the PLO, and therefore all the debate on the conference idea is irrelevant."

In their session yesterday, the Likud ministers adopted a unanimous decision against the idea of an international conference. The Likud defines the conference as a "trap for Israel," and rejects Peres' hints that Likud ministers might come around to support it. Likud people yesterday said: "Apparently he is referring to David Levi, who supported the withdrawal from Lebanon, but David Levi participated in yesterday's session and he joined the general rejection of the conference idea." [passage omitted]

Jordan Said To Agree on Conference's Authority

TA240613 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Apr 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Jordan has agreed that the international peace conference on the Middle East will serve only as a framework and an opening for direct negotiations with Israel.

A senior Foreign Ministry official told DAVAR that in recent contacts with Jordan, the latter withdrew from its conditions regarding the authorities the international conference is to have. Jordan has agreed that the conference will not have the authority to impose a solution on the participants, and that it will serve only as a framework for direct negotiations.

The official believes that an agreement in principle has been reached with Jordan, Egypt, and the United States regarding the principles underlying the work of the international conference. He believes that the Soviet Union will eventually join in this agreement and will also participate in the conference.

Nehamkin, Mubarak Meet in Cairo on Peace Process

TA230439 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin is currently in Cairo for talks reportedly not confined to farming matters. More details in this report from Steve Weizman:

[Begin recording] Nehamkin met for over an hour yesterday with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for talks said to have centered on the prospects for an international peace conference. Before leaving Jerusalem Nehamkin met privately with Foreign Minister Peres for an up-to-date briefing on the issue. Peres' assessment of the current situation is that, with the PLO-Jordan accord now dead and formally buried in Algiers, the way is open for direct talks with Jordan under some kind of international umbrella. Nehamkin's mission, which is being widely reported, is to bring Mubarak around to Peres' point of view.

Contacted by telephone in Cairo a short time ago, Nehamkin would not give details of his talks with Mubarak, other than to quote the Egyptian leader as saying: Whoever is against the peace conference idea is making a dreadful mistake. There is no other way to bring about peace talks. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Gaza College Charges IDF Injured Students

TA221713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The Islamic College in Gaza claims that IDF soldiers injured 47 students in the course of a demonstration dispersed earlier this week. An official communique issued by the university states that most of the students were only slightly injured, but that nine had to receive medical treatment in the hospital.

In response to these charges, military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus there were a number of illegal rallies and demonstrations by inhabitants in town on Sunday. In some cases the demonstrations ended following the army's demand, but in a small number of incidents, the soldiers were forced to disperse the demonstrations using reasonable force. This only occurred, however, because the demonstrators ignored the call to disperse, provoked the soldiers, and even tried to harm them.

The military sources refused to comment on the number of casualties mentioned by the university.

Al-Shawwa Rejects Gaza Mayoral Appointment

TA231321 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Apr 87 p 1

["Exclusive" *Al-Quds* report]

[Text] Gaza — 'Islam Rushdi al-Shawwa has announced that he will not accept appointment as Gaza mayor unless it is done through municipal elections in which the citizens decide the identity of the person who will take over this job.

AL-FAJR Calls for End to 'Iron Fist' Policy

TA230521 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 18 Apr 87 p 1

[Editorial: "So That Peace Will Be for Everyone"]

[Text] The "Orient House" hall in Jerusalem witnessed a press conference yesterday attended by Arab notables from the occupied territories and Jewish figures, against the background of measures adopted by the Israeli authorities during the past few days against residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and a number of educational institutions.

We believe that the measures being adopted by the Israeli authorities within the framework of what is called the "iron fist" policy resemble pouring oil on fire more than anything else, at a time when we most need to see security and stability established under the umbrella of real peace covering everyone in this land.

Talk about the possibility of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East has increased lately and has drawn the attention of various international parties. This is a good omen for the convocation of this conference, and is a source of optimism and hope that it will bear fruit if it is held on a logical and realistic basis, devoid of intransigence.

In view of the optimism and hope for the convocation of the international conference, the Israeli authorities are called upon to acknowledge that the Palestinian people must in no way be deprived of their rights because depriving them of these rights means simply that this region will remain exposed to unrest and instability.

In light of these facts, the Israeli authorities must abandon the "iron fist" policy they are implementing in the occupied territories, because methods of coercion are never of any use and will not create a suitable opportunity for establishing a just peace in the region — peace for everyone, and not for only one nation.

Daily Criticizes Rabin's Territories Policies

TA211108 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Apr 87 pp 7, 9

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "...and the Hands Are Rabin's Hands"]

[Text] Everyone knows that Shim'on Peres is foreign minister and Yitzhaq Rabin is defense minister, but on a vital political issue — perhaps the most central one, from which other foreign policy matters are derived — it is not Peres who is the architect, but Rabin.

Shim'on Peres may agree with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on far-reaching political moves, make declarations about "authentic Palestinians" to his heart's content, or even meet with PLO supporters in the territories as much as he wants, but the Palestinian angle of Israel's foreign policy, or the Palestinian policy as a whole, is conducted by the defense minister. We can see the disastrous results of that policy with our own eyes these very days.

There is a close relationship between the political turmoil in the territories and the various spheres of Israel's foreign policy, just as there is a link between the political organization of Palestinians inside the territories and the moves that led to the reconciliation between the different PLO factions and the convocation of the PNC in Algeria. The direction of the development, both within the territories and inside the PLO, could have been completely different if Israel's Palestinian policy were not conducted by that defense whiz-kid, Yitzhaq Rabin.

The cause of Israel's security failure in the territories can be measured by the number of casualties in the bloody incidents and by the number of political detentions. The more political activists such as Faysal al-Husayni of East Jerusalem or Ma'mun al-Sayyid of Ramallah are thrown into jail, the clearer the failure of the policy stands out. Anyone who reaches the point at which he employs such a step is virtually admitting that all other channels are blocked and that he is losing control over the course of events.

The failure of the policy in the territories is the outcome of many things, but we will devote this article to only one aspect which is related to the circumstances that led to the PNC conference in Algeria.

It is a first-rate political mistake to push a political adversary into a corner from which he can only extract himself by taking unusual, unpredictable measures. This, however, is precisely what Israel's line toward the PLO and its supporters in the territories has been.

Thanks to the Egyptian policy, the evolution of a pragmatic line within the PLO, and the consolidation of the Jordanian understanding that the Palestinian problem cannot be resolved without the PLO, Husayn and 'Arafat have worked out a joint policy involving approaching the political process through a joint delegation, with representation of Palestinians from the territories the main characteristic of this policy.

This line has forced the group of personalities from the territories who were destined to play a positive role in the political process by virtue of being acceptable to both Jordan and the PLO on the one hand and to Israel on the other hand to form a body. Of the Jordan supporters, the most prominent men are such central figures as Hikmat al-Masri of Nabulus or Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. The PLO-supporting bloc includes *Al-Fajr* Editor Hanna Sinyurah of East Jerusalem and former Hebron Mayor Mustafa al- Natshah. The PLO's consent to allow its sympathizers to appear in one group together with Jordan supporters could have had a moderating effect on the PLO's hostile activity against Israel, even if only by way of relaxing the ferment and opposition bred by the conquest — if only Rabin had not interpreted this development as just the opposite. He did not see the political potential in making progress toward a political settlement or the chance of bringing quiet and calming the heated spirits in the West Bank by encouraging the PLO's moderating political moves.

As a military personality who observes politics through the eyes of a soldier, Rabin noticed the danger inherent in having "terrorist command posts in Amman." After Sharon threatened to bomb Amman and Rabin warned Jordan against having any ties with 'Arafat, is it any wonder that Husayn abstained from tailing unnecessary risks, found an excuse to remove the PLO from his capital, sought the friendship of Syria, and froze the political process? (Israel is blaming the PLO for the political stalemate, by maintaining that it has refused to accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, but the fact of the matter is that the PLO is prepared to accept these resolutions in return for recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self- determination, but neither Jordan nor Israel are ready to pay that price.)

The expulsion of the PLO from Jordan launched a negative process in terms of Israel's defense policy, because the PLO factions, which were, on top of everything else, squeezed together into the refugee camps in Lebanon, reached certain joint arrangements, and this was manifest also in the coordination of activity against the Israeli Military Government in the territories. This included a series of settlements that were first drafted in Moscow approximately 1 year ago and were finalized in an agreement signed in Prague. By the time the Israeli defense establishment acknowledged its error, it was already too late.

The new wave of detentions is not accidental; this time it involves key leftist Palestinian figures. The Israeli defense establishment has understood, somewhat belatedly, that the process of unifying the PLO entails greater opposition to Israel. However, it is doubtful that there is enough room in jail to hold all the activists capable of stirring up trouble. The defense minister would have done well to think about this not now, but when he was called upon to assess the security implications of the political line involved in the Amman accord reached between the monarch and 'Arafat.

Shim'on Peres, too, is guilty of not fully fathoming the seriousness of the Palestinian policy conducted by the defense minister. It was very surprising to hear him comment on the reconciliation within PLO ranks and declare that now the personalities in the territories should take the initiative to join the political process themselves.

This pronouncement implied criticism of 'Arafat for joining hands with the Palestinian extremists rather than with with the line drawn by the political process. 'Arafat could grow discouraged from this criticism: When he went along with Husayn, Israel took a negative view of this; and now, when he is linking his arm with Habash and Hawatimah, again Israel is criticizing him. So 'Arafat could well ask himself: What do these Israelis want from my life?! Anything I do will not be to their liking!

This is not merely a rhetorical question, as 'Arafat has accepted the Cairo declaration which mentions an end to anti-Israel violence in Europe, largely to appease Israel.

Fatah's Force-17 has denied any connection to the brutal and shocking murder of the woman settler near Qalqilyah, which could in turn lead to the thought that perhaps the Cairo declaration could, through careful and correct policy, have been expanded to include statements about a complete cease-fire between the PLO and Israel.

As long as 'Arafat still entertained the hope of returning to Amman to recapture his place in the political process, he did not heed the demands raised by the Palestinian left that the Cairo declaration be revoked; but now this matter has been placed on the PNC agenda. This is yet another example of how the mistaken defense policy in the territories has been wreaking political and security damage upon Israel. Instead of expanding the Cairo declaration to include a statement about the total cessation of hostile activities, the very declaration itself is once again a topic for discussion in the PLO.

Yet the amazement aroused by Peres' remark is also tied to the actual policy employed in the territories on the eve of the PNC conference. The Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue bred the joint delegation, which brought pragmatic PLO supporters like Hanna Sinyurah to the fore. This line, however, was resented by the Palestinian left, and Peres' meetings with the members of the joint delegation resulted in a minicrisis in the reconciliation talks in Algeria.

As the PLO's reconciliation talks proceeded, the PLO forsook the line advocating giving prominence to Palestinian figures in the territories, and now the PLO is talking about a new formula for Palestinian representation — not through a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but through a pan-Arab delegation, in which not people from the territories, but the PLO itself, will be represented. If that is so, then Peres' assessments were quite premature, since the development within the PLO resulted in a regression in the policy desirable to Israel, largely due to the security policy in the territories.

However, the policy Peres would have liked to see was a priori inapplicable because of the sorry defense policy. PLO sympathizers such as Hanna Sinyurah cannot assume a primary role in the leadership as long as meetings with them are accompanied by repressive measures. As Peres was conferring with the members of the joint delegation, the latest wave of arrests was being launched, along with the deportation of the leader of the Al-Najah University students. The pro-PLO students issued a manifesto condemning Sinyurah, the editor of a PLO mouthpiece in the territories. In other words, the special circumstances of the Israeli policy in the territories do not permit the pragmatic leadership there to assume the role it should by rights hold, and the personalities who are ready to participate in the political process cannot hold their rightful place in the political process desirable to Israel.

Amal, Syria Urged To Maintain Calm in S. Lebanon

TA231009 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] Yesterday Israel conveyed a message to the Shi'ite Amal organization in which Israel made it clear that it considers Amal responsible for what is happening in the security zone of southern Lebanon and the territory north of it.

Military sources in the north yesterday said that calm in the Shi'ite villages in southern Lebanon to a large extent depends on Amal's ability to control the terrorists' movement in the area and to foil attacks.

A similar message has also been conveyed to the Syrians, who are backing Amal. The military sources draw attention to the fact that since the Syrians have entered Beirut, Amal has changed its policy and has started to attack IDF forces. "Israel does not consider Amal an enemy and has not declared war against it. We want our relations with this organization to return to what they were in 1982; if this happens, then Israel will help Amal maintain the welfare of the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon," the sources said. [passage omitted]

IDF Warns S. Lebanese Against Terrorist Activity

TA230903 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0846 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Israel Air Force planes distributed leaflets in southern Lebanon this morning. The leaflets, which the IDF directed at the inhabitants of southern Lebanon, say that as a result of the terror attacks and the katyusha incidents, the IDF will resort to sharp measures in order to curb the terrorist activity. The leaflets call on the inhabitants to recall the period preceding 1982: Do not forget the suffering you had to endure because of Palestinians who cared nothing for your welfare. The leaflets go on to say: Your future is in your own hands. You must not aid the terrorists and their partners. If there is no calm in Qiryat Shemona and Nahariyya, the inhabitants of Al-Nabatiyah, Tyre, and the entire region will not be able to live in peace. The leaflet is undersigned by the commander of the IDF in the north.

Weizman Calls For Negotiations With PLO

TA231134 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman says that the PLO has emerged stronger from the PNC session in Algiers, and it must be taken into consideration in any negotiations on the future of our region. 'Ezer Weizman said this at a Hashomer Hatza'ir [MAPAM youth movement] convention in Kibbutz Gan Shemu'el. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports:

[Begin recording] [Roger] The convention was devoted mainly to economic affairs, but Minister Weizman concentrated on political issues. Weizman says that despite the position presented by Faruq Qaddumi at the PNC session in Algiers, we still have someone to talk to. Weizman says that Israel has already been holding direct contacts with the PLO for the past 2 and 1/2 years:

[Weizman] I suggest that we do not play down what has happened in Algiers, despite all the rhetoric that came out of there. I think that 'Arafat has emerged from there strengthened. We have to understand that there are several circles here, and we cannot be in our circle without perceiving the others. I have always maintained that nobody in the Arab world could conclude anything without taking the Palestinian issue into consideration. We are always talking about Jordanian and Palestinian representatives, saying that we will permit the Jordanians and Egyptians to participate in their selection. I do not think they will come to one of the villages in the Galilee or in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to choose the representatives. What will in fact take place is that they will consult with various PLO people. With the PLO having come out of Algiers strengthened, I believe that in due course, despite all we have been saying, if we will want to reach talks — even if only preliminary ones — we will find ourselves sitting — even if only indirectly — with Palestinian representatives whose roots lie in the PLO. I am not disturbed by this; this is one of the most important political issues.

[Roger] Regarding the international conference, Minister Weizman does not consider the talk about an international umbrella for direct negotiations with Jordan realistic.

[Weizman] I find it hard to believe that superpowers such as the Soviet Union, the United States, China, and even Britain and France will come for a cup of coffee and tell us: Okay, boys, now go and do what you can by yourselves. I think that once an international conference is convened, it will not dissolve all of a sudden; it will be much more substantial, and this must be said. I wish I was mistaken.

[Roger] Minister Weizman told his audience that in his opinion, Menahem Begin regrets the peace with Egypt, and this is the reason for the Lebanon war and for the attempts to curry favor with the people through economic means. Now Weizman calls on the Labor Party leadership to bring about early elections:

[Weizman] I hope Shim'on Peres will do this — that he will bring about elections as early as October-November this year. [end recording]

Segev Sees 'New Palestinian Reality'

TA231349 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Apr 87 p 10

[Commentary by Shmu'el Segev: "Act of Sabotage in Algiers"]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir can be pleased: The abrogation of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement of 11 February 1985 has removed the immediate threat hovering over the national unity government, and it is doubtful that the question of convening an international conference can now be used as an excuse for disbanding the Israeli Government in the near future.

Even if the final wording of the resolutions of the PNC's 18th session is more moderate than the opening speeches by 'Arafat and other terrorist leaders before the Council's 426 delegates, one thing is no longer in doubt: The reconciliation between 'Arafat and the leaders of several extremist terrorist organizations has actually done away with the preparatory work done by Peres, Mubarak, and Husayn.

During Shim'on Peres' tenure as prime minister, this work was characterized by a persistent effort to solve the question of Palestinian representation in the peace process outside the framework of the Camp David accords. In exchange for a Jordanian-Egyptian willingness to forgo an independent representation of the PLO, Peres was prepared to summon an international conference with the participation of the Soviet Union and perhaps even of Syria. President Mubarak who, contrary to Syria and Jordan did not withdraw his support for 'Arafat, went to great lengths to find a formula that would provide for a Palestinian representation acceptable to the PLO without having this organization officially represented in the peace process. This was the basis for Egypt's active involvement in the wording of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement of 11 February 1985.

Now 'Arafat has turned the tables. Notwithstanding contrary to the impression created in the last 2 days, the PNC has not buried the notion of an international conference and has not gone back on its willingness to take part in the political process, albeit without abandoning the "armed struggle." On the contrary, the PNC session in Algiers may very well empower the PLO to take part in an international conference or any other forum that is acceptable to the Soviet Union. The emphasis in the PNC deliberations, however, is on an overt and official representation rather than a covert one by Jordan. This position is unacceptable to most Israelis and even Peres and the Labor Party could hardly "stomach" it. [passage omitted]

The change in the PLO's position has already lead to a toughening in the U.S. position about an international conference. Now, it would also be appropriate for Peres to toughen his position. Of course, this does not mean that the efforts to promote peace should stop. On the contary, at the end of the PNC session in Algiers and with the publication of its final resolutions there may very well be room for initiating a new visit by Peres in Cairo and perhaps also another meeting with King Husayn. [as published]

Such meetings are necessary because the positions of the three countries regarding the PNC resolutions must be checked at the highest level and new understandings have to be reached based on the new Palestinian reality. In view of Al-Asad's ostensible misgivings about 'Arafat's leadership, there may very well be room to explore a similar understanding between Israel and Syria.

In this respect, I do not agree with those who believe that Syria was behind the PLO's recent attacks on the northern border. It is highly unlikely that on the eve of the PNC session Al-Asad would have been prepared to strengthen 'Arafat's position in Algiers by actively helping the terrorists cross the border fence and fire katyusha rockets at the Galilee settlements. However, over and above everything else, Israel must step up its efforts to strengthen peace with Egypt. Given the new situation on the Palestinian front peace with Egypt remains the only basis for the hope to promote the peace process in the future.

PLO Supporters See Unity Aiding Peace Process

TA230510 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Apr 87 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Prominent PLO supporters in the territories said yesterday that moves made at the Palestine National Council meeting to unify the organization would promote Middle East peace prospects rather than harm them. They rejected Israeli assessments that Yasir 'Arafat's renewed alliance with PLO radicals, and his abrogation of his 1985 pact with King Husayn, would damage peace prospects.

PLO unity would make the organization a more effective and credible negotiating partner, they said.

"The abrogation of the Amman agreement was only a death sentence for an accord already frozen by King Husayn last February," said Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists' Association. "The special relationship between Palestinians and Jordan goes further than any agreement. We have many interests together. The PLO will try to find a new formula for relations with Jordan."

Ziyad Abu Zayyad, editor of the Hebrew-language Palestinian newspaper *Gesher*, said the decision by radical leaders George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah to align their factions with 'Arafat "gives more power and importance to the PLO" as a potential negotiation partner. Abu Zayyad said unity within the PLO would reduce Syrian influence over Palestinian organizations and strengthen the PLO's independence.

Abu Zayyad said statements at the PNC indicated support for an international conference by Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. "This is moderation on the Palestinian side. 'Arafat is pulling the others to his line, rather than being pulled to their position," he said.

Al-Fajr editor Hanna Sinyurah said abrogation of the Jordan-PLO agreement was the price paid to promote Syrian participation in the peace process. Syria has consistently demanded the nullification of the accord. Sinyurah said cancellation of the pact, the PNC's maintenance of ties with Egypt, and the unification of its factions could lead to a meeting of Arab heads of state and "encourage more than anything else the holding of an international conference."

Palestinian personalities with closer links to Jordan were critical of the cancellation of the Amman agreement. Dr Yasir 'Ubayd, Jordan's chief health administrator in the West Bank, said abrogation of the agreement was a "negative development," but PLO unity will make the organization more effective at an international conference. A split PLO is a much weaker negotiating partner, and can deliver less at the negotiating table than a united PLO," he said.

Deposed Gaza Mayor Rashad Shawwa called the abrogation of the Amman agreement a "great mistake" which hurt efforts to create a united Arab front to resolve the Palestinian problem.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj criticized the abrogation of the pact, and said it would strain Jordan-PLO relations. Frayj said he did not believe the move would hurt peace moves because "we have to admit there is no peace process."

AL-QUDS: 'Hard News' From PNC for U.S., Israel

TA231644 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Apr 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The PNC and the Impaired Peace Process!"]

[Text] Since the start of Palestinian differences, which at times reached the stage of armed confrontation, and continuing with the suspension of political coordination between Jordan and the PLO, at the same time that the camps war escalated and attempts to restrict Palestinian action intensified, Arab and international parties wagered that the days of the PLO were numbered. The situation reached such a stage that some of these parties began preparing themselves for a political equation devoid of the PLO factor.

These parties are now, as a result of the PNC's convocation with the participation of all the major Palestinian factions that comprise the PLO, taking the news from Algeria very hard. Apparently the extent of the hard news has exceeded expectations, and nothing proves this more than reactions emanating from these parties.

The United States, through more than one spokesman, has declared that the PNC's convocation represents a great blow to the peace efforts and creates new obstacles on the road of advancing the peace process. The same applies to the Israeli reaction which appears to be an exact copy of the U.S. conclusions and positions.

At the phase of political action that preceded the convocation of the 18th PNC session, the PLO adopted a series of steps that reached the stage whereby it announced its consent to link the Palestinian people's right to self-determination with a confederal framework with Jordan. The PLO announced the names of a number of Palestinians, outside of the PLO's framework, to participate in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Despite all these steps the peace process remained immovable. With Jordan's declaration to suspend political coordination with the PLO, it became obvious that all political efforts at that stage had reached a dead end that could not be breached.

This dead end was the talk of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict prior to the convocation of the PNC session. Consequently the work and decisions of the PNC will contribute to breaching this dead end, but under no circumstances will they lead to impeding the already stalemated political efforts nor contribute to building obstacles that already exist. The road has been closed, the restrictions have existed, the stalemate has been impregnable, and the mist has been intense.

On the Arab world level, there are those who are trying to put forward the U.S.-Israeli viewpoint from a different angle, represented by expressing concern for relations destroyed by non-Palestinian decisions. However, we still remember the Palestinian people's commitment to the fraternal relations, the common destiny, and the pains that followed the announcement by Syria and Jordan on suspension of coordination with the PLO.

The PNC's work and decisions must form a window for solid Arab- Palestinian relations. If press reports from Amman that Jordanian officials acknowledge that they erred in their assessment when they advised King Husayn to suspend coordination with the PLO are true, this indicates that positive developments are taking place in Palestinian-Jordanian relations, which we hope will be a model for the coming political phase, particularly if they are founded on the basis of equality and joint action in order to build an Arab bastion able to break the deadlock and breach all dead ends.

AL-SHA'B Calls on PLO to Maintain Egyptian Ties

TA211815 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Apr 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Dialogue"]

[Text] The Palestinian dialogue in Algeria is continuing, and the various Palestinian factions participating in the dialogue have agreed to maintain national unity as a weapon for confronting the plots the Palestinian cause is being subjected to on the Arab and international levels.

The factions taking part in the expanded national dialogue in Algeria believe that the Palestinian cause was exposed to an Arab conspiracy during the past 5 years. These factions agree on who was a party to the conspiracy and on their aims and intentions, affirming without the slightest doubt, the Syrian regime's involvement in hatching and implementing this conspiracy.

If the various Palestinian parties agree in their evaluation of the Syrian regime's positions and intentions toward the Palestinian cause, it is indeed surprising for these parties to adhere to Syria's demand that the PLO suspend its relations with Egypt at a time when the Syrian regime maintains good relations with Jordan, which on its part maintains good relations with Egypt and is not called upon by Syria to suspend these relations.

No one can ignore Egypt's pan-Arab role as well as Egypt's weight in the international and Arab arena, and also the Egyptian people's honorable stance toward the Palestinian cause. In cognizance of Egypt's importance, we call on all Palestinian factions to agree on maintaining relations with Eygpt and its people, while adhering to the firm Palestinian position condemning and rejecting separate solutions and deals.

After engaging in a frank discussion of their positions, far from the pressures of Arab regimes, the Palestinian factions are requested to fulfill rapidly the national unity agreement, based on firm and strong foundations, in order to confront the conspiracies of Arab and international intelligence agencies aimed at deterring our cause and legitimate rights.

AL-QUDS Views Abrogation of Amman Agreement

TA220512 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Apr 87 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "Abrogation of the Agreement Must Not Mean Harming Unity"]

[Text] Anyone referring to the clauses of the Amman agreement, signed between the PLO and Jordan on 11 February 1985, will realize that this agreement was a Jordanian-Palestinian attempt to remove the obstacles placed by the United States on the path of Arab attempts to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The agreement's clauses were undoubtedly an expression of the PLO's clear flexibility in the hope of beginning an official Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. The events that followed the signing of the agreement, however, proved that what the United States was trying to achieve was the cancellation of any PLO role in peace-seeking political efforts. This U.S. stance was based on a series of positions proclaimed by Israel regarding its refusal to engage in dialogue, talks, or negotiations with the PLO under any circumstances.

All the parties concerned came to realize that the Amman agreement had exhausted its potential in the face of the U.S. persistence, the PLO's refusal to abandon the justifications for its political existence, the seriousness of Arab rivalry, and Jordan's decision to suspend political coordination with the PLO.

Jordan, the PLO, and the other Arab parties to the conflict had to search for new ways to break the deadlock pervading the Middle East peace process. Hence, anyone who thinks that the abrogation of the Amman agreement is apt to place obstacles and impediments between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples is making a great and strategic mistake. In a sense Jordanian-Palestinian relations are the outcome of many years of historical, cultural, political, social, and economic interaction. On the other hand, the Amman agreement was established in order to achieve political objectives in Jordanian-Palestinian relations with other parties. It was not a charter for acknowledging the speicial relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples — relations that were, are, and will remain stronger than the clauses of any official agreement between the political leaders of the two peoples.

In another development, there are those who are using the abrogation of the Amman agreement as a pretext to harm Egyptian- Palestinian relations. We believe that these parties are endeavoring to widen the gap of regression and retreat pervading the political and diplomatic infrastructures of the Arab world. These parties must realize that the Palestinian people can never forget the role played by Egypt — leadership and people — during the past 5 years. What Egypt is demanding conforms with what the Arab parties to the conflict, led by the PLO, are demanding, in particular with regard to the need for an international peace conference. Also noteworthy is Egypt's commitment to and defense of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

We are extremely confident that the abrogation of the Amman agreement came as a result of a series of events and developments. It should be followed by the drawing up of an Arab political strategy bringing together Jordan, the PLO, Syria, and Egypt. The absence of such a strategy, under these difficult circumstances, is apt to destroy whatever hopes have remained for the Arabs to achieve a comprehensive, durable, and just peace.

AL-NAHAR: PLO Leadership Precludes 'Moderation'

TA230636 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Apr 87 p 8

[Editorial: "Point of Order"]

[Text] One must pause once more over the speeches delivered yesterday in front of the PNC members who have gathered these days in Algiers.

What attracts attention, however, is the text of the statement that abrogated the Amman agreement. The statement begins by saying "that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has become an obstacle to the development of relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples."

According to all the facts, the Amman agreement was signed between two parties: the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO Executive Committee. The Amman agreement refers to issues relating to the right of self-determination, confederation, the principle of land in return for peace, the problem of the refugees, and the international conference. Nowhere in the agreement is there any reference to the relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, because this relationship is already formed and will remain intact whether the Amman agreement stands or is abrogated.

The second point, however, that attracts attention in the statement abrogating the Amman agreement says: "The PLO will continue its efforts to find new bases for its relations with Jordan and the other Arab countries." Finding new bases for relations with Jordan is an expression that merits further clarification. Will the new relations be with the government or with the people of Jordan? Without claiming to have the power to answer for others, one is apt to ask: If concluding the Amman agreement took 2 full years, how long will Jordan and the PLO need to reach agreement on new bases for the new relations?

There is another point worth studying — the issue of Syrian-Palestinian relations. Irrespective of the sensitivities and accusations, Syria is a principal party in the Arab-Israeli conflict. We do not alter the facts when we say that the international conference will not be held, even with a formula acceptable to the Arabs and the Palestinians, without the approval and participation of the Syrians. Palestinian-Syrian differences must not form a basis for any strategy that the PLO tries to adopt and endorse. The time has come for the Palestinians to think calmly and take into account the benefits of a reconciliation with Syria and the losses of enmity with Syria. News agencies yesterday quoted Dr George Habash as saying that Syria is a neighboring country of Palestine, and every Palestinian has the right to live on its soil. The pan-Arab interpretation of this remark is that every Syrian has the right to live on Palestinian soil.

The third point, however, is the issue of Egyptian-Palestinian relations. Reports from Algiers indicate that the Polisario Front representative was invited to the PNC meetings and Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi's representative refused to attend the opening session of the conference. These reports indicate that suggestions that the PLO will be in a position to continue its relations with the Egyptian Administration are ill-founded, because Arab alliances and particularly Syrian-Libyan relations have an impact on the issue of relations with Egypt.

If one were to sum up these points and queries, one could say that the new shape of the PLO Executive Committee will very much reflect the impossibility of maintaining moderation and the difficulty in the search for new bases.

The abrogation of the Amman agreement, the preservation of relations with Cairo, and the attempt to break the Syrian stalemate are conflicting and complex issues. Achieving coordination between these issues is something that borders on the impossible.

HA'ARETZ Tells 'Bitter Truth' About PLO

TA221601 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Apr 87 p 9

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "The Bitter Truth About the PLO"]

[Text] The facts of life — and death — have once again dealt a slap to the wrinkled face of Middle Eastern diplomacy. Unrest has increased in the West Bank; murderous activities have resumed on the Lebanese border, showing that that country will not calm down in spite of Israel's military strength and the promises of its leaders; Yasir 'Arafat is preparing a very bad week for Shim'on Peres; and the PNC session in Algiers will yet spurt out all the words necessary to make the chances of the initiative to resume the peace process even dimmer than before.

We will yet hear the retorts of the rightwing about the evil nature of the PLO and the "we told you so" from all those who prophesied that the sun would one day herald cooperation between Husayn and 'Arafat. Although Egypt has asked Jordan not to lose its temper over 'Arafat's new muscle flexing, we know the survivor of Amman better than that. He will not enter an independent adventure with Israel — even with the accompaniment of the superpowers — without the PLO's approval. Husayn can use 1,000 different words to express his despair of the Palestinian leader, but he will not even take one step with us on his own.

Only a fool can believe in the unfounded assumption that if the PLO were to show its ineptitude and moreover its disdain to produce representatives to negotiations on the territories that an alternative leadership would emerge in the West Bank. On the contrary, the more the PLO closes ranks and strengthens the lesser the chances that a Palestinian with any commonsense should volunteer to take part in negotiations with Israel.

These are bad days for the hopes for a solution and gloomy days for this people which keeps burying its sons. One can also say: poor Shim'on. He tried so hard, and he is still trying. Had these attempts — had they! — succeeded, they would have been the best thing he could have done for his country, an historical achievement for this diligent and well-meaning leader who has suffered so many disappointments.

However, it does not work. The PLO is disrupting Israel's best intentions. We have come a long way with the Palestinians. There was a time once when they did not exist, when there was no Palestinian people at all. Golda Meir told a bemused nation that she, no less than any other person, was a Palestinian.

Within a few years we recognized its existence and even signed an international document acknowledging its legitimate rights. Along with being forced to admit the central role played by the PLO, we took action to eliminate it and then spectacularly announced that it had become obsolete, that the two-legged monster had, as it were, been hunted down.

Once again, this has not turned out to be the case. Although the PLO has been dispersed to the ends of the earth, has split and divided and been brought to its knees, it is not dead. On the contrary, it seems to be very much alive and kicking.

This week in Algiers it has shown that its longevity is greater than many in our midst are prepared to admit and that it has healed its wounds. 'Arafat, the leader who seemed to have reached the end of his rope following devastating defeats, is once again on his feet.

Coincidentally, acts of terrorism, sabotage, and guerrilla warfare have increased. The PLO has announced that it intends to step up its hostilities and we had better believe that this is not mere bravado. We had better believe that the Palestinian umbrella organization can mobilize its troops and encourage local elements to heat things up all the way from the Gaza Strip to the security zone. The Fatah terrorists whose skulls, as is known, we smashed in Beirut have returned to the border fence and the katyusha rockets are whistling there.

These pictures are known, too well known. Their recurrence almost forces us to once again hear the cliches that we have no choice other than live with this reality of blood and tears. That was also said about Egypt, the bitter enemy with whom we shed a lot of blood and the country to which Israelis now go to spend the Passover Holiday.

The terrible paradox of hatred and bereavement lies in the fact that they are the reason a supreme effort must be made to shatter current conventions, however deeply-rooted they may be, in order to build a different future. There will be no solution without the PLO, and we should get used to this bitter and hard truth precisely in these days of grief over the victims of the lengthy struggle with our neighboring people.

We lost precious time when the PLO was at rock bottom. During that period, when 'Arafat was helplessly making the rounds of the Arab capitals, we deluded ourselves into believing that we had destroyed the PLO as our enemy. Now we are getting it back, stronger than before, and once again rising from its ashes like the phoenix.

With a national unity government in power and the threat of a skeptic public the Labor Party's ability to engender a daring political outlook has decreased. Peres has reached the farthest possible limit of his party and within his own party there are those who think that he has even crossed it. However, recent events — which only highlight that which should have been clear even before — showed that his efforts will serve no purpose as long as one decisive fact is not taken into account, that no progress can be made toward a solution without the participation of the true leaders of the Palestinians, however loathsome they may be to us.

It is depressing to think that there is currently no political force or public figure capable of presenting this crude fact to the public without having his head smashed in the process.

If Peres wants to conduct a futile diplomatic game he can go on peddling the dismal wares of an international conference without a serious Palestinian leadership, and in which not even Jordan's willingness to participate is certain. If what he has in mind is a real process, he apparently has no choice other than force the current government to fall and hope — he can only hope — to have more leeway in the constellation that would emerge after the elections.

The time that passes without holding elections, with the PLO gaining strength and Israel sustaining casualties in the West Bank and Lebanon, will only boost those among us who object to a solution. If Peres is afraid of failure in the elections, this fear will only increase the more the Labor Party leader takes its time going to the ballot box.

YEDI'OT: Gorbachev Orders Emigration Approvals

TA221134 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Report from Moscow by special correspondent Dr Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Excerpts] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has decided to solve the problem of the emigration applications made by Soviet Jews in order to dispel the West's criticism on the subject, I was told by high- level figures in the top echelon of the Soviet Government and Communist Party.

Gorbachev has ordered Soviet Government officials to take a favorable approach toward all the applications submitted by Jews. The order is to approve all the applications unless there are justifiable reasons for rejecting them, particularly reasons related to state security.

This decision, I was told in Moscow, will be carried out regardless of the progress made in the political processes in the Middle East, including the convening of an international peace conference in the region. The Soviet leader decided to solve the problem in the framework of his policy of "perestroika" (reconstruction, in Russian). This is the term used here for the policy adopted by Gorbachev, the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, who has in the course of 1 year carried out enormous changes the like of which have not been witnessed in 30 years.

The Soviets emphasize that Jewish emigration is "an internal Soviet problem" that is not related to political developments. In contrast, they say, relations with the State of Israel definitely depend on progress toward convening an international conference. The Soviets also say that an improvement in relations with Israel and certainly the resumption of diplomatic relations depends on Israel's display of a "constructive policy" and on its efforts for genuine and stable peace in the region.

It was suggested to me that a senior Israeli personality may soon be invited to Moscow on a "semiofficial" visit. [passage ommited]

Since my arrival in Moscow at the beginning of the week I have held numerous talks with senior officials of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Communist Party, and the Academy of Sciences. One of my interlocutors was Professor Yevgeniy Primakov, director of the International Studies Institute of the Academy of Sciences [title as published]. Primakov is considered a senior adviser close to Gorbachev, and he joined the entourage of advisers which accompanied the Soviet leader on his trip to Reykjavik for his summit with President Reagan. He is also one of a handful of Soviet officials who know Israel well. In the 1970's he was one of the two Soviets envoys who paid a secret visit to Israel and held political talks with then-Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The interlocutors who told me about Gorbachev's order to take a positive approach to all visa applications submitted by Jews believe that the number of Jews who will apply will not exceed a few thousand. "The number 400,000 mentioned in Israel is simply ridiculous. According to our estimates, even 40,000 is a fictional figure," they said. The senior Soviet officials also say that many of those Jewish immigrants will not go to Israel. "Only the 'hard core' of religious people and enthusiastic Zionists will go to Israel. The rest will look for a future in the West, as have most Jews who have left the Soviet Union in the last few years."

Moreover, the Soviets argue that if the Israeli demand that all Jews leaving the Soviet Union be forced to fly directly to Israel were accepted, many would waive the right to leave the Soviet Union altogether. "Most Jews want to leave the Soviet Union and be granted the status of political refugees in the United States, Canada, or West Germany," a Foreign Ministry official argued. "If they are forced to go to Israel they will lose their status as political refugees, and then the entire business would not be worth their while," he added. Nevertheless, my interlocutor emphasized that the Soviet Union has no intention of interfering with the choice of destination of Jewish emigrants. "We leave that choice in their own hands," he said.

Despite the fact that the order to lift most restrictions on Jewish emigration came from Gorbachev himself, I was told that there is opposition to it in the top echelon of the Soviet Government. One of the reasons for this opposition (albeit not the only one) is the "request for clarifications" submitted by the Arab countries in the wake of reports in the Western and Israeli press about an expected mass immigration to Israel. I was told that the Arabs cited reports published in Israel according to which Jewish settlers in the territories are planning a mass absorption of Soviet immigrants and said: "Israel wants to use Soviet Jews to populate the occupied territories." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, deliberations continue on technical issues related to the regulation of Jewish emigration. As is known, the plan is to stop using Vienna as a transit station. However, a decision has not yet been made on whether those Jews leaving the Soviet Union would be flown to Romania or to Poland. It seems that this matter is currently being discussed at the most senior level of the Soviet Administration.

Anatoliy Dobrynin, the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the head of its international relations department, is directly in charge of the issue of Jewish emigration. Dobrynin, the former ambassador in Washington, is considered a top adviser to Gorbachev on everything pertaining to relations with Western countries.

I was told that Dobrynin announced that 1,931 exit visas were issued to Jews in the first 3 months of 1987, from January to March, thus lifting the 5-year freeze on emigration. Some 1,291 additional applications will be reviewed in the next few months. Apparently, the plan is to review some 11,000 applications submitted by Jews to the Soviet emigration office by the end of the year. It is estimated that several hundred Jews will be allowed to leave the Soviet Union each month in the next few months. [passage omitted] At present, anybody applying for a visa must present the approval in writing of the director of the factory or institution where he is employed. The Soviets argue that this approval is needed for reasons related to state security. [passage omitted]

Yesterday I went to the Soviet Foreign Ministry building, which was built in the 1950's in the bombastic style characteristic of Stalin's days. I had an appointment with (Robert Tordeyev), the head of the Middle East Department. [name and title as published] My interlocutor gave me a comprehensive review of Soviet policy in the Middle East. He elaborated on the Israeli-Arab conflict, an issue in which he evinced remarkable knowledge.

"The Soviet Union does not wish Israel ill," (Tordeyev) emphatically told me several times. "I want to stress that the arguments between us and Israel are not over its right to exist but on the best ways that would enable Israel to live in peace and security."

"You must remember," the Foreign Ministry official continued, "that we were among the founders of the Jewish state in 1948 through our support for the UN Security Council resolution. However, one must also remember that it was only partly implemented since this resolution also speaks about a Palestinian state which must be established alongside Israel. The Jewish people are definitely entitled to have a sovereign state, but not at the expense of another people."

I asked my interlocutor about the chances for the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union in the near future.

"If real progress is made toward peace," he replied, "this will give rise to conditions necessary for a normalization of our relations. However, even in the absence of diplomatic relations, we have an interest in maintaining contact with Israeli officials in order to promote a solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict."

It is a shame, however, that some Israelis are driving a wedge in our contacts. Such, for example, was the case in the meeting in Helsinki last year. We wanted to send a consular delegation made up of technical experts to Israel in order to check the condition of Soviet property and Soviet citizens residing in Israel. And what did Israel do? Not only did it raise the question of Jewish emigration, which is an internal Soviet affair, but it also demanded to send a consular delegation to the Soviet Union as a condition for the visit of a Soviet delegation in Israel. Does Israel have property in our country? Do Israeli citizens reside in our country whose situation must be checked?"

Just as other senior officials with whom I talked, (Tordeyev) emphasized: The question of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union is an internal Soviet matter. We will deal with it, independent of any progress made toward a solution of the Middle East conflict. It seems that these remarks represent a hint to Israel not to try to condition or create a link between immigration and the political process in the region, including the convening of an international conference.

What is his opinion about the chances of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East in the near future?

(Tordeyev): "In my view, the international conference has attained an unstoppable momentum, but the date for its convening is still rather far away because of Israeli and U.S. obstinacy." [passage omitted]

At the end of my talk with the Soviet Foreign Ministry official my impression was that the well-known Soviet positions have not changed but that the tone certainly has become more moderate.

Transit Point Discussed

TA231436 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Apr 87 p 3

[Report from Moscow by special correspondent Dr Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Excerpts] The issue of flying Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union to Israel via Romania will be discussed and settled by the Soviet Government within the next few weeks. "For the time being, no decision has been made on the matter," Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov emphatically told me yesterday.

In contrast, a CPSU official dealing with the issue of Jewish emigration yesterday hinted to me about "the Romanian connection." This took place during a talk about reports published in the West and in Israel about plans to transfer Soviet Jews to Romania rather than to Vienna, as is the case at present.

I told the official: Where there is smoke there is fire. It is inconceivable that all the reports on the matter could be fabricated.

The man thought for a long time before telling me, after carefully weighing every word: "I would not rule out the possibility of opening an alternative channel at a certain point if it transpires that the Vienna channel is overloaded."

I asked him: How many people are we talking about when we begin to say "overloaded?"

My interlocutor refused to elaborate. [passage omitted]

On the international conference the people I spoke to both in the CPSU and the Foreign Ministry went to great lengths to paint the most attractive possible picture.

"The solution to be attained in the international conference must be comprehensive and unanimous. There is no question of an imposition, as those who object to the conference argue," (Robert Tordeyev), the head of the Middle East Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry [name and title as published], told me. "Of course, the conference will not be a debating club, nor will it be a tribunal with a prosecutor and a defendant and a verdict to be carried out; not at all. All participants will seriously discuss all the problems on the agenda and will arrive at a mutually-agreed settlement," (Tordeyev) added. "In any event, we are not interested in imposing our views on others. We will try to persuade and others will most certainly do the same -- only persuasion, no imposition," (Tordeyev) said. "In the international conference," (Tordeyev) emphasized, "Israel will take part in the solution of the Palestinian problem. Any resolution will require Israel's approval, as well as the approval of all the other pertinent parties."

Initial Diplomatic Meetings Held With Poland

Meeting in Warsaw

TA231650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Ambassador Mordekhay Paltzur, in charge of Israel's interests in Poland, met today for the first time since his arrival in Warsaw with the Polish foreign affairs minister. During the meeting, the two officials reviewed the present relationship between the two countries, and both expressed satisfaction with the commercial and cultural ties. This is reported by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Peres-Kwaitukozsky Meeting

TA241001 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Ambassador Stefan Kwaitukozsky, Poland's diplomatic representative in Israel, conferred this morning with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in a get-acquainted meeting. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the meeting took place at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, and lasted for some 30 minutes. This meeting was to reciprocate for Israeli representative Mordekhay Paltzur's meeting at the Polish Foreign Affairs Ministry yesterday.

Tamir Seeking Visit to PRC 'This Month'

TA241049 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Apr 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir has been making efforts to arrange for a visit to the PRC this month. It has been learned that he has been in touch with PRC diplomats in Europe whom he had previously met.

The Foreign Ministry director general will depart for a 2 and 1/2-week tour of East Asian countries next Friday. Among other places, he will visit the Philippines, Hong Kong, Japan, and Singapore. In consultations held in the Foreign Ministry over the past few days, Avraham Tamir expressed his hope that he would receive the Beijing government's consent, and would thus become the first Israeli official to hold an official, open visit to the PRC. If the visit materializes, the question of the international conference and the PRC's participation in it will be the main topic of discussion. However, it is not yet clear whether he truly stands a chance of receiving an invitation.

Updated Figures Show Lavi Costlier Than F-16

TA221013 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Apr 87 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] If only 150 Lavi planes are produced, the price of the plane will be between 46 to 56 percent higher than the price of an F-16. This is one of the updated figures presented by defense establishment experts to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This comparison does not include sums which have already been spent on the development of the plane (approximately $1.6 billion). By 1991, the date marking the end of the development stage of the Lavi, $1.4 billion more will have to be spent, of which approximately $250 million are for "preproduction" purposes.

In the current fiscal year, Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] will invest $57 million of its own resources in the Lavi project. Of this sum, some $30 million will come from its research and development budget. According to sources in the defense establishment, this will put an end to the IAI's participation in other projects. The IAI will raise over $20 million from a 7-percent cut in workers salaries and from dismissals. The cut in salaries is necessary because the IAI has set the cost of each hour of work on the Lavi project at $30 (compared with $35 in other IAI projects). In order to stick to this figure, the salaries of workers must be cut.

Sources in the defense establishment said that the alternative proposed by the IDF, which calls for the cancellation of the Lavi project, will compensate for the apparent damage to be caused to the IAI in the technological sphere if the Lavi is scrapped, because the IDF alternative offers new projects, some in the aeronautics field. These and other projects deal with advanced and sophisticated technology and will support and maintain the substructure of advanced technology.

If one considers the employment angle, it transpires that there will be no difference in either case (continuing with the Lavi or embarking on the IDF alternative), although the cancellation of the Lavi will cause transitory unemployment.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Receives Participants in PNC Session

Meets With Moroccan Adviser

LD222149 Algiers APS in English 1002 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 22/4/87 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid audienced Tuesday here Kuwaiti State Minister of Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-Usaymi, who represents his country in the works of the Palestinian National Council.

Moreover, the president of the republic received Ahmed Ben Souda, advisor of Moroccan King Hassan II, and who is representing his country in the works of the Palestinian National Council.

Finally, the head of state audienced 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Socialist Party of the Democratic and People's Republic of Yemen, who is taking part in the works of the Palestinian National Council.

On this occasion, the two sides examined bilateral relations and means of their reinforcement as well as Arab international topical questions.

Receives Sudanese Official

JN221946 Khartoum SUNA in English
1720 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, April 22, (SUNA) — Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid met here Wednesday with Sudanese Deputy Chairman of the Council of State Idris al-Banna, and the accompanying delegation.

In a statement to (SUNA) Al-Banna said the encounter dealt with bilateral relations and means of boosting them further, unifying Palestinian ranks and reviewed some problems facing the Palestinians besides voicing full support to the Palestinian rights and stressing the need for unifying Arab ranks.

The two sides' viewpoints were identical on the Palestinian issues, Al-Banna pinpointed.

As for the Chadian question, Al-Banna stated that the meeting reviewed the Sudanese and Algerian efforts exerted for the sake of bringing about a peaceful settlement for the conflict between Chad and and Libya.

Al-Banna is leading Sudan's delegation to the 18th session of the Palestinian National Council which were currently being held here on April 20.

Communique Notes French Property Settlement

LD240832 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] A sum of Fr3 billion is to be set aside by French banks to boost cooperation between France and Algeria. A solution has been found to the questions of the transfer of French assets and the sales of French property frozen in Algeria. There was also an agreement of views between the two countries on many other questions, particularly those concerning foreign debts. These are the results of the meetings in Paris between Finance Minister Abdelaziz Khellef and Edouard Balladur, the French minister for economy, finance, and privatization. They are also contained in a joint communique issued after the talks. Kader Brahimi reports:

[Brahimi] The grant of a 3-year, Fr500 million line of credit to Algeria is included in this joint communique. This sum is intended to fund technical aid studies and cooperation projects. The Algerian side was greatly interest in France's proposal to ease the debt of the poorest countries. Thus, Algeria will support this initiative in international bodies. As to the pending commercial questions, there was a shared desire to settle them as soon as possible.

Returning to the qustion of the settlement of the problem posed by French assets and property in Algeria, we note first among the decisions made that it was decided to facilitate the sale of French-owned property in Algeria. The transfer of assets in Algerian banks, belonging to French citizens who have left this country, will be done without any special formalities. Finally, a certain number of transfer procedures have also been settled to the benefit of French staff working in Algeria. Others are being studied.

Iranian Official Arrives for Economic Talks

LD201459 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, April 20, IRNA — The Foreign Ministry director general for economic affairs, Mahmoud Vaezi, arrived here Sunday night for talks with Algerian officials on expansion of mutual economic relations.

Speaking to IRNA after arrival, he said that he will hold talks with Algerian officials on economic issues within the framework of joint economic commission.

Vaezi arrived here from a visit to Ethiopia and Libya where he held talks with officials of these countries.

LIBYA

Attack Plan Rumored for French Rocket Base

AU240749 Paris AFP in English 0122 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Amsterdam, April 24 (AFP) — Libya is "studying the feasibility of a terrorist attack" against the Kourou space rocket base in French Guiana, the Dutch daily, *Algemeen Dagblad* reported Thursday quoting British intelligence sources in the republic of Guyana.

The paper said the British intelligence service had warned Paris to be on its guard.

The report said quoting "an aide to the French prefect in the capital of French Guiana" that the information had prompted the visit to the territory last weekend by French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

According to the British sources, quoted by the Dutch paper, Tripoli wanted to "hit France wherever possible" because of French policy in Chad.

The report said "Libyan commando groups" were based in Guyana, formerly British Guiana and in the western part of Suriname (formerly Dutch Guiana), which lies between Guyana and French Guiana.

The British Foreign Office on Thursday refused to comment on the report.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Arabsat Delegates

LD230200 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2054 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Meeting between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and delegates to the Arabsat conference in Tripoli; date not given — live or recorded]

[Text] [Al-Qadhdhafi] [Passage indistinct] When they were in Libya before the revolution, the Americans had five military bases here. Their control of the Gulf of Sidra was actually control of Libyan territory. After World War II, the English established bases in Libya. The same with Italy when they colonized Libya. The Gulf of Sidra was part of Libyan territory.

It is only now, when Libyans are ruling themselves and (?have been liberated), that they are saying the Gulf of Sidra does not belong to the Libyans. [Words indistinct] There is a dangerous strategic plan being implemented now with all seriousness, and it seeks to make the Arabs into American Indians. There is now an attack from the north and one from the south with very serious objectives, and Arabs are not [words indistinct]. The plan is designed to end the Arabs' existence as a nation. The Arabs must disappear as a nation, just as the American Indian nation was wiped out. They encourage anything that destroys Arab life in this region. They do not want the Strait of Gibraltar, Bab al-Mandab, Hormuz, the Suez Canal, the Mediterranean shores, or the Red Sea to be controlled by an independent force.

These outlets are strategic and they should not be under independent control. In other words, when they cross from West to East and vice versa or from north to south and vice versa, they pass through these strategic straits. Therefore, they do not allow an independent power to control them. Because an Arab nation exists here, it must be destroyed so that the area will be shaken and turned into spheres of influence. This conflict is continuous over generations. Moreover, the Arab era in Spain is still vivid in the European imagination. I have heard this several times from European analysts. They say they will not permit a second Arab-Islamic revival in this area, as it will bring the Arabs back again to an Arab age in Spain and Southern Italy, as Sicily was ruled by the Arabs for 300 years and Spain, as you well know, for 800 years. They say yes, we have actually driven you out, but once you became capable of returning you will do so. Therefore, the conflict between us continues. European security depends on the weakness of the Arabs. When the Arabs are scattered and weak, Europe will enjoy stability and power. But if you become strong, there will be a new revival across the Mediterranean Sea that will threaten southern Europe.

Now they believe that what is taking place in Libya is a dangerous sign and the beginning of a confrontation with the West. They feel this is a beginning that must be destroyed. They are concentrating on Libya for they are determined to wipe out any sign of progress, unity, or power. In their eyes, when Libya says the Gulf of Sidra is Arab, that means Arabs own half the Mediterranean, and prevent Israeli airliners from passing over the Mediterranean [words indistinct]. They say this is what we said; this is a start. When Arabs grow strong, they will threaten us. The attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor; the attack on Libya; the attempt to destroy the northern front: Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian resistance; the destruction of the Iraqi Army and economy — all these, even the war between Iraq and Iran, ultimately serve the plan I mentioned.

They encourage anything that would destroy Arab strength. Even when they sell arms to Iran; this is not because Iran is on their side. They know Iran is their enemy because it has had a revolution. However, this is something that could help destroy Arab strength. You can see there is an emphasis on positions that constitute a sign of challenge or progress. Even the events in southern Libya, southern Sudan, and southern [word indistinct] and southern Algeria are part of this plan. They are encouraging a march from the south and they are carrying out the march from the north. This will ultimately lead to the (?destruction) of the Arabs. Then they (?say) that those who are called Berbers are actually pre-Islamic Arabs. The Berbers are those who immigrated [passage indistinct]

They are planning to (?create) many regimes, among them those they believe to be allies — even Morocco. They are now planning to overthrow the Alawite throne in Morocco, as they believe it to be the guarantee of Morocco's Arabism. But if the plan is designed to create populist states [duwal shu'ubiyah] in the region, they must get rid of the Alawite throne, which would weaken the Arab existence. They are planning; they are now pushing King Hassan toward this tendency. This will inevitably destroy him. It is adventurism and gambling with the throne. It is intended to get rid of him.

Even when King Hassan summoned the enemy's prime minister, it was to please the Americans. Perhaps he felt the Americans wanted to get rid, so in order to please them... [changes thought] It is well known that anyone who wants to please the Americans must do something for the Israelis. If they suspect that the Israeli public is opposed to him [words indistinct]. The American public will support him. They will say he is a friend of Israel. How, then, can the U.S. Government oppose him? Indeed, when Peres visited Morocco, [word indistinct] U.S. public opinion and say-: How can you sacrifice the king of Morocco when he is a friend of Israel, while Arabs eat [as heard] them and destroy them? He felt that the Americans were getting rid of him.

Equally, they get rid of their friends, those they believe to be their friends and those who are their enemies. They get rid of the revolution in Libya just as they get rid of the king in Morocco. They get rid of the Arab force in Iraq and Syria just as they get rid of Arabism in Mauritania and Sudan.

I feel the gravity of the situation and the Arab future is in doubt. That is why I put proposed the Arab federation. Some of you may be aware of it or have studied it at the councils of ministers of which you are members. I put forward the plan for an Arab federation. This homeland as a whole would constitute an Arab federation. All the presidents, kings, princes, and sultans would form a presidential council like this council — let us suppose you were kings, presidents, and sultans. They will sit down like this.

A presidential council and its chairmanship would be rotational. It would be chaired by one of those presidents or kings each time. Communication ministers, for example, would form a federal communications council, somewhat like this group. Its chairmanship would be rotational. Prime ministers would form a federal executive council, also with a rotating chairman. Foreign affairs, education, industry, agriculture and so on would be organized in the same way.

The domestic affairs of each Arab country would be left to its people. They would be free to change their regime from monarchy to republic, from republic to jamahiri or vice versa. However, at the pan-Arab level we will not be concerned with regions; each people will look after itself. Changes may take place in regions that concern its people, but the important thing is that the region be committed to the Arab federation. Amalgamated unions may take place within this federation; North and South Yemen might merge into one country; Syria and Iraq might form one country; Libya, Algeria, and Morocco; Sudan and Egypt; Egypt and Libya might form one country within the federation — so instead of the federation having 20 members, they may merge and become 15 or 10 and so on.

There is an economic dimension in addition to this political one. I put forward the economic side after studies by experts — a general Arab body for food, seeds, water, scientific research, natural gas, and energy. In other words, this would include the economic content of the political dimension. We proposed it to every Arab country, and we told them we are in danger and must... [sentence incomplete as heard] It will not cost them much. They will sign saying we the conferees are signing for the establishment of an Arab federation according to this pact which they can amend and sign.

That is it. The federation would then be established and everything would be complete. This homeland would be a federal state and in time would be developed. There will not be any compromises. On the contrary, those with high positions would gain — the head of the smallest state could become president of the entire federation in one of the terms; a minister in the smallest Arab state would become the chairman of the council of ministers of all Arabs in one of the terms. Unless this federal form is agreed on, there will be incitement to revolution, political assassination, rebellion, mutiny and the erasing of borders by force, as they will have to [words indistinct]. If we do not unite peacefully and do not incite revolution, and if there is no revolution to unite this nation, it would be the end. We would just have to hand over our homeland to the Americans, the Israelis, or any Tom, Dick or Harry.

No Arab has the right to take a piece of Arab land, draw a line across it and say I am monopolizing this; it belongs to me. It is not his, it is ours. We are Arab and this is our land [words indistinct]. There will be no blame if someone incites revolution after that, as we tried all peaceful means. The farce of communications is also [words indistinct]. When we communicate now, we do it via Europe. A satellite is nothing more than a consumer good; it is just like buying a telephone from Britain, for example, and it is used and used until it is worn out. Then we tell them to send us another telephone and so on. This means we are a consumer market, everything is a consumer market. Even these satellites are goods we have purchased from a foreign company. They undoubtedly made huge profits — millions — from these projects; they profited from the Arabs. They send it to space for us and then they repair it [words indistinct], and after 7 years it will be worn out.

[Question] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes, that is true. There must be a plan so one can bear its costs. These costs are not [word indistinct]. We achieve the program we were talking about. We (?entered) Arab radios. You, you are waiting. It is impossible for all these Arab rulers to agree on unified radio broadcasting. But as it concerns you, you do it, and that is it, you decided. It becomes an effective matter. There are those who start broadcasting without knowing that their citizens are receiving...[changes thought] He does not care about what was decided. What matters for him is that he is a ruler and that is it.

[Question] [Words indistinct] The Arab League [word indistinct] the study of joint programs of culture, upbringing, and education that should be broadcast [word indistinct] and be the object of common agreement. [Word indistinct] what raises the likelihood of problems. Agreed upon (?programs) are the ones that should be followed in the next newscast, God willing.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Even for states that fear radios, the transmission of the revolutionary contagion (?or whatever they call it). When all the Arabs agree on unified broadcasting, they reduce the inciters' excesses. This means that when I broadcast a program that can be heard in Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Sudan, Syria... [sentence incomplete as heard] We cannot include things provocative to the Arab states, even if I oppose them. I would not do anything provocative on the day of my broadcast for these regimes. Otherwise, it would harm what we have achieved. Certainly, the country that broadcasts that day to all the Arabs should adopt a national program that does not raise [word indistinct].

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is very important. Your meeting, to my mind, is an opportunity to reconcile, make decisions and sign them, so they become accomplished facts to the rulers, [words indistinct].

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes, that is it. For how long? We will get the ministers (?embroiled), [laughs] for a year. That is it. He will bring you what you want. We do not have any ambitions apart from the unity of this nation. Even if we had problems with the Arabs, they were never regional. Libya does not have bilateral problems with any state. They are all for Arab nationalism, Arab unity, for this nation. Otherwise, when we quarrel with an Arab state, what is our dispute about? There are no border problems between us and any other Arab state, nor are there likely to be. But the problems we had are all due to our call for the unity of the Arab nation. We clashes with regionalists either on our borders or elsewhere.

Anything we do is solely for the sake of Arab unity; we have no ambitions. They might have been able to accuse 'Abd al-Nasir of being the leader of all Arabs. He was the president of the United Arab Republic [of Egypt and Syria]. As far as I am concerned, however, I will never be a president, that is, when the Arabs agree on one president, it will not be me. That is because after having occupied a revolutionary position, there is no way I will go back and occupy a political or administrative post and be president of a with administrative and political responsibilities. This is inconceivable whether in Libya itself or outside it. Even if Libya establishes unity with Algeria or any other Arab state, be it Tunisia, Sudan, or some other, it is inconceivable for Libya to have a president who would rule this unified country, as I am not a president and can never be one.

[Words indistinct] the Algerian president can, were Libya to unite with his country, be president of this new united country. The same thing also applies to the president of Sudan or Tunisia, should there be unity with the latter, or Syria.

What other communication problems has this council of yours dealt with? Or this satellite — do you only have this satellite to concern yourselves with?

[Question] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Very well, try to use outer space for the benefit of Arab unity.

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes, this is correct. Among the things which pave the way and create the climate for unity is understanding. If you succeed in making unified radio and other broadcast transmissions and in providing Arab telecommunications that allow one Arab to contact another directly via the Arab satellite, instead of paying money to Europe, this will pave the way, particularly with radio. We will thus compel those who complain about each other not to do so over the unified broadcasting transmission, and we will reduce the exchange of abuse. People will be compelled to transmit programs — pan-Arab — acceptable to all. The continuation of this will create a climate conducive to unity, and will pave the way for Arab unity.

We now live in regionalism and isolation. Programs, radios, media, press, and books are all of a regional nature, having nothing in common with other Arab countries. Even questions of Arab history and geography — each of us has drawn up a map of his own region, speaking only of his grandfather and forefathers. This creates a new generation whose attention is focused on its own country. You should destroy this isolation, first by way of this Arab satellite. This is a new scientific capability in space which you should exploit in the interests of your nation. Have any of you any observation to make so we can benefit from it? How is Sudan?

[Unidentified speaker] [Passage indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] [Words indistinct] clear Arabic language, understandable to us all.

[Question] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Well, it is possible that we can benefit from the International Court of Justice. However, one should not resort to it unless he is sure of the verdict, because if you put things related to national sovereignty before the court and it passes judgment against you, you might have been better off not to have approached it in the first place. Sovereignty should always be considered as such and the best example is the Gulf of Sidra, which is now part of Libyan territory. If we submit it for arbitration, there is a great risk unless we are certain the judgment will make it part of Libyan territory.

Another example, which is within (?this category), is Aozou, which has been part of Libya since the French and Italian occupation. How can one submit it to arbitration if he is not sure they will say it is Libyan territory? The continental shelf between us and Malta...[video shows Al-Qadhdhafi standing to point out the disputed area on the map behind him] This is Malta. There used to be a disagreement about this continental shelf as well as oil exploration and so on.

Also, there was disagreement between Libya and Tunisia, whether the demarcation line should go this way or the other. Well, the Libyans used to say it should be this way. [Al-Qadhdhafi points to map] [Word indistinct] they used to say it should be this way. Anyway, these are matters unrelated to sovereignty. It is only a matter dealing with maritime resources in the deep sea and it is outside the region...[sentence incomplete as heard] Such a problem can be referred to arbitration instead of quarrelling and fighting over it. Yes, we can go to the International Court of Justice for arbitration. In fact, we have referred this issue between Libya [words indistinct] to the court, which gave its opinion on the dem,arcation line of the continental shelf between us and Tunisia. At the same time, the dispute between Libya and Malta was referred to the court, which drew the line to solve the problem. You cannot, however, give the example of southern Sudan and assert that it should be referred to the court so as to ascertain whether [words indistinct] and John Garang are right or not. If the matter reaches this level it will be very serious indeed.

Of course this war between Iraq and Iran should have been ended, as it is a lost and a futile conflict. It is a futile war and the goals for which it has continued are stupid, childish, and (?really hard to believe). No one is saying, for instance, that Iraq should pursue the aim of overthrowing the revolutionary leadership in Iran. It is, however, an unrealistic goal. Nor should Iran say that the Iranian regime must fall. Why should it? When someone says he is fighting to topple someone else, his government or his revolution, that is unrealistic, and the whole things becomes ridiculous. It becomes an indication of the way people in the region as a whole think. In fact, people there have a very base and unrealistic mentality.

When there is a fight over a piece of land, both Iraq and Iran claim it as theirs. Yes, there is something realistic in it, both of them are fighting over a piece of land. Fighting may occur over freedom of navigation in the Gulf. When one person tries to ban the other from passing through and the other tries to pass by force [words indistinct]. But when someone says he will fight someone else because he dislikes his regime and will fight until he overthrows him, he is advocating something unrealistic. At the same time, he harbors other things aside from what he claims, as this cannot be so.

I cannot understand how Iran can continue the war until Saddam Husayn falls. How can Saddam Husayn's downfall be brought about and what does it mean — the occupation of Iraq!? Does Saddam's downfall mean the occupation of Baghdad, the rout of the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi people, the Iraqi economy and [word indistinct]? Because, before you reach Saddam and overthrow his regime or the Ba'th Party, as they call it in Iraq, you have to go over Al-Jadiriyyah [Ba'th Party Headquarters district in Baghdad], over the Iraqi Army, people and land. You have to do all these things. So how can you then claim that your goal is only the regime and that it has nothing to do with the land and that you are not fighting the people? Well, this is impossible, as you are going over them to reach Saddam. This operation is all interlinked. The Israelis are the ones who applaud and [word indistinct]. They are very happy to see the war continue and they are secretly feeding it. Also, the Americans want to [word indistinct] the Iraqi force and at the same time be rid of the Iranian revolution. They are still hoping that Iran will again be a country of American influence, therefore, they want to embroil the revolution in this war. The Israelis are also happy to see that Iraq, instead of [words indistinct], is confronting Iran. They are hoping that this war will continue forever. There is no enmity between the Persians and the Arabs, except for the shah's era, which was characterized by a racist hatred. He used to be anti-Arab and pro-Israeli. I mean that Islam and good-neighborliness should be a link between us and the Iranians. That is to say that we — the Arabs — do not want to annex the land of Persia. The Iranians have no desire to annex part of the Arab homeland; if so they would be colonialists. In fact, it is a mad war. I still insist on this interpretation. It is a losing war, a war which France, America, the Israelis, and other states who trade in arms, are feeding. They feed this war.

France is the number one state in promoting the continuation of this war for its own benefit. The number one war merchant is France. Public opinion should be turned against France — I mean Arab public opinion. You should understand that France is a state that does not deserve respect. It is a dirty state. It wants this war to continue to have a flourishing market for its goods — weapons. It is the state that still wants to occupy all of French-speaking Africa to make the area into colonies. It is fighting Libya, as Libya wants to participate in the liberation of some French colonies in Africa. Although to a certain extent it is against America, it wants to replace it. It is not opposed to America because America is imperialist and France is against imperialism. On the contrary, France wants to be an imperialist state, replacing America — that is to say, in the areas where there is no America, there should be France.

France is a very dirty state. It maintains its old, ugly military face. It is colonizing the island of Reunion — an African island. France says the island is French — Reunion is in Africa. Mayotte is also in Africa. Its population is Muslim and (?has links with) the Arab homeland. It belongs to France. There is Caledonia in the Pacific, Martinique in the Atlantic. The French are fighting and claim these lands as their own. Have you land outside France? They say: These are our lands. Look at the Central African Republic. It is a French colony, that is to say, France can change the regime there as it pleases. It is a French military zone. Gabon, Cameroon, Niger, and Chad are occupied by France. Togo, the Ivory Coast — all are, in fact, colonies — that is to say, there are French forces in all of them, air and naval bases.

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am still following up this issue. I am working seriously on it. This war should be stopped by all means. It is not in our interest for this war to continue. I am working on it. I will be sending envoys and individuals to talk seriously to them.

This situation is preposterous. Hundreds of thousands are dying, and large sums of money are wasted on something absurd. If only it were for the sake of Palestine, to liberate it from Zionism, or for the Gulf of Sidra, to impose our authority over it, or for the Suez Canal, to free it. But this is a war between two neighboring states, neither of which wishes to annex the other, or control it. This is not logical.

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] You see, they long for the Americans (?to overlook) their intentions, their rancor, and their morals. These are the ones with whom the Arabs shake hands, with whom they visit, considering them as friends. How do you expect a Libyan to feel toward the Arab who goes to visit Reagan, shakes hands with him, and has a relationship with America, while the Libyans see their children die from American bombs? This has never happened with any other superpower.

Can you imagine the Soviet Union ordering its planes to attack an Arab state to hit its children and homes? I can assure you that anyone who has a strong relationship with the Soviet Union would undoubtedly refuse to shake hands with Gorbachev if his aircraft were killing Arab brothers [words indistinct]. It does not make sense. How can we accept an Arab who goes to America and shakes hands with Reagan and Thatcher?

King Fahd's visit to Britain hurt the feelings of many people in Libya because Thatcher's hand is stained with the blood of our children. How can any Arab shake hands with her? All Arabs should have broken off relations with Britain and America on the same day. How can anyone hit families sleeping in their beds? Have they seen Ben 'Ashur Street? If you see Ben 'Ashur Street you will find ordinary buildings and houses. They dropped many bombs in the city's center, which is densely populated. Whole families were killed. This is America, can you imagine?

How do you expect us to approve of an Arab going to shake hands with Americans, visiting America, remaining America's or Britain's friend? There is no friend now. You consider yourselves as friends of the Arabs while remaining friends of America? You must be joking. Do you think America considers you as friends? It considers you as no more than its subservient slaves, and it will get rid of you at the right time, just as Britain got rid of the sharif of Mecca in the past. They talked with him as the king of the Arabs. The McMahon talks. They are well-known in history. I mean the talks between Sharif Husayn and McMahon, about which several books were written. The messages and the reverence. They gave him the title king of the Arabs to play on his emotions until they got him embroiled in the war with Turkey. They then took him out of the Arab homeland and cast him on Rhodes. Even America, when the time is ripe, will cast out the Arabs in the Gulf, Morocco and Egypt, just as it cast out King Husayn. America cannot be the friend of any Arab.

I am pleased to have met you. I am grateful for your visit to the house, [as heard] and to your own country — Libya. God willing, Libya will shoulder as much as it can, taking into account today's economic circumstances and the American-Western blockade on Libya. You have seen that Libya is under an American blockade. Yet there are Arabs who are in total harmony with America, and trade with it. When the price of a barrel of oil was $40 it was quite natural for Libya to contribute $100 million, or something like that. But now it is very difficult for Libya to contribute 1 or 2 million. All right, it is in the hands of America's Arab friends. America has imposed a blockade on Libya, and you want Libya to participate in space. [as heard] When the blockade is lifted Libya can contribute.

Our battle is one. You have seen that when Libya loses, you also lose. You want Libya to make a major contribution to the space telecommunications establishment. Libya cannot. Why? Because it has been hurt by the enemy. Therefore, the enemy hurt you. Had it not been for the damage inflicted on Libya, Libya would now been able to participate effectively with you. From this you can see how they kid us. They say: We impose a blockade on Libya alone, but you, Arabs, are our friends. The blockade on Libya hurts other Arabs. You ask for $100 million and you do not get it. Why? Because Libya is blockaded. The blockade on Libya is a blockade against other Arabs. I wish you success — God willing. I am grateful.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Announces Palestinian Boycott

LD220025 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2139 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Address to the nation by King Hassan II in Rabat — live]

[Text] Praise be to God, prayers and peace be upon our master, the messenger of God, and his family and companion. My dear people, you are undoubtedly wondering why I am speaking with you today. That is not inappropriate, as I do not turn to you unless an event or incident takes place that attracts my attention or is something for you or me to ponder. We can then start a dialogue until we reach the inevitable result and our positions become clear and united.

Yesterday before dinner, I received a cable from our loyal servant, Ahmed Bensouda, our counsellor, from Algiers where he was leading the Moroccan delegation. As you know, the delegation is composed of a government delegation, a parliamentary delegation, a political delegation, and representatives of the movement that is supportive of, is defending, or is close to (?Palestine).

I have told you these details in light of what you will learn later. But, in fact, the delegation was one and united. [Words indistinct] and this is what the cable said. It is in French, as it was in code and in a special technical manner which, regrettably, we have been unable to master in the Arab world. I will try to translate what was in the cable.

Bensouda said: I have the great honor to inform Your Majesty of the following: Immediately on my arrival at Algiers airport, I drew the attention of the Palestinian organizers, who were there to welcome us, to the fact that the Moroccan delegation would in no way accept the presence of mercenaries at the conference. The party that was at the airport to welcome us gave us specific assurances, and added that the Palestinian Affairs Administration under the chairmanship of leader Yasir 'Arafat had debated this issue — that is to say, the presence of the mercenaries — and that a final decision had been made not to invite them.

In fact, during the first part of the PNC's opening session, in the presence of his excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and members of his government, nothing noteworthy took place. Afterward, the chairman of the conference, Yasir 'Arafat, adjourned the session so he could accompany His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and those who were with him when they left the hall. After that, and when the session resumed, Mr — and here I call him the mercenary Abdelaziz, [Polisario Secretary General Mohammed Abdelaziz] and from now on I will call him Abdelaziz el-Marrakechi; Abdelaziz el-Marrakechi entered the hall followed and accompanied by a considerable team of television and radio correspondents. After he had embraced Yasir 'Arafat, he took his seat to the left of the latter in the first row.

The cable goes on: In light of this, I left the hall, followed by the entire Moroccan delegation. Immediately upon our departure from the hall, we were followed by some members of the PLO Executive Committee, and I can name them here for the record: Abu al-Sa'id, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Dajjani, Abu Marwan [Fawwaz Yasim], [word indistinct], and others. They caught up with us and expressed their extreme regret and deep sorrow at what had happened. They confirmed to us that they had not invited the mercenaries, and that they were facing a fait accompli by Algeria [words indistinct].

The cable continues: The Palestinian officials were persistent in their insistence that we and our delegation return to the hall.

Before we would reverse ourselves, I asked the Palestinians, I demanded that the Palestinians, as a sign of their good intentions, circulate a statement or communique stressing and emphasizing that they had not invited the mercenaries in the name of the PLO. After our departure, Abdelaziz el-Marrakechi was allowed to speak, and in short, he asserted that he had attended this PNC session at the invitation of the PLO — he said so in his speech. He added, among other things: We, like our brothers the Palestinians, are suffering in the Sahara as you yourselves have been suffering in Israel. The cable ended: The members of the Moroccan delegation, as well as myself, reaffirm here our deep and continuous allegiance to you. Signed, Ahmed Bensouda.

What is important is the fact that in a plenary session, as well as at an international gathering, words detrimental to Moroccan dignity and honor were spoken.

They were uttered by Abdelaziz el-Marrakechi; he was born in Marrakech in 1947 during the French protectorate. His father is now retired and was a soldier in the Royal Armed Forces; he is still alive and still lives in Kasba Tadla. Improper words were spoken against Morocco in front of international delegations representing various circles. They put Morocco and Israel in the same category by Morocco tortures and hurts the Saharan people, who are actually being harmed by this El-Marrakechi. In fact, here we must ask: Why were we invited? Why did they invite Morocco, these people from the PLO, if they had decided to listen to what Morocco did not want to hear? Or, if they remained helpless until the last hour, I would ask if they are influential, if they are people who can sit with kings and presidents, if they are people who can sit around the summit table. Are they people expected to make commitments and keep them? They have shown that they lied and gave into pressure put on them at the last hour. It is my habit not to be harsh and to weigh my words. I will continue to do so. But it is my duty to defend the honor of my country and its reputation and not to let anyone say, while sitting to the left of the chairman of the sessions, that Morocco is in the Sahara and Israel in Palestine. [Word indistinct] what has happened happened, but this will entail matters with possibly unfavorable consequences, not for Morocco, but for the Palestinians themselves.

There was not in the Arab world, relatively — and I will tell you why I said relatively — one who did as well by the PLO as Morocco. Why? We are the most distant from them geographically. Second, we do not have, like the other states, Palestinian communities with their own administration and funds. We do not have a Palestinian professor, or a Palestinian accountant, or a Palestinian engineer, so it cannot be said that our action is opportunistic rather than virtuous. We are (?fair), neither geographically nor nationally. Second [as heard], in relation to the size of our population and our income, we gave the greatest amount of assistance to the PLO.

Algeria has a population of 23 million; it has natural gas and gasoline. It used to get billions and billions of dollars from natural gas and gasoline. The other Arab states had and still have considerable revenue. These Arab states either border the occupied Palestinian territories — and here we do not say they are occupied by — or have a large number of Palestinians who have settled in them. For this reason, I say, speaking comparatively and in figures, that no Arab state gave material aid to the Palestinian people the way Morocco did. This is material aid. As for moral support, no official words from the PLO were ever heard on an international platform before the 1963 Islamic summit conference in Rabat.

I remember that at that time Abu Yusuf [Al-Najjar] — may God's mercy be upon his soul — and Abu al-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] were the representatives of the PLO. They came and asked to speak with observer status. At that time, several Islamic states had no relations at all with the Palestinians — neither political nor family ties. As a matter of fact, some of these Islamic states used to take precautions where the Palestinians were concerned. I still remember, and this is a fact, that I, in my capacity as chairman of the conference and chairman of the session, appealed to my brother kings and presidents. Among those who were adamant about barring the Palestinians was the shah of Iran. I told them: You know the position that a guest enjoys before a Muslim host, so please do not shame me in the eyes of my guest. This was the manner in which I appealed to them.

Allow them to speak, and if what they say is convincing, please accept them as observers. None of those present could say no to me, not out of respect for their Palestinians, and not out of respect for those who were standing — they did not know them, as they are Islamic states, not Arab ones — but out of respect for Morocco, where they were meeting and where they felt the Islamic spirit. They also felt, in the words of the Moroccan king, deep-rooted loyalty. Abu al-Sa'id, or Khalid al-Hasan, if you wish, made a brief statement in which he showed all his talent. At that time there was a rift between the Palestinians and the shah of Iran, but by the end of the conference a meeting had taken place between the Palestinian delegation and his majesty the shah of Iran. The shah told them: There is nothing else I could give you here, but I am waiting for you in Tehran.

Indeed, no sooner had he returned to Tehran than he met with them in the company of Ahmed Bensouda. The shah was very generous with them and remained so until the rift occurred between them, as they sympathized with the shah's opponents in Iraq and sided with Khomeyni. Morocco did not stop at that, but I still remember the intensity and the bitterness of the quarrel that broke out between me and my dear brother King Husayn in 1974 at the Rabat Arab summit, after the October war. Yet I was the first defender, and my words and position had their weight, as I was the chairman of the conference. There the PLO was recognized as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and this has been Morocco's stand ever since.

The time will come when we may make public the documents that prove clearly, continuously, and forever that Morocco's position has never changed. If Morocco had not been committed to this PLO representation, several problems would have been solved. But in Morocco, as we all know, in this country, we should understand why everyone wonders why this nation is secure and carefree; thanks be to God, as this country's institutions have not been based on theft; they have been based on legitimacy — from the days of our master Idriss I until now; from legitimacy to legitimacy. Everything has been within the framework of Islamic legitimacy; allegiance, fulfillment of allegiance, and performance of the dictates of allegiance; defending what is held sacred, defending fortresses, and defending Islam.

It is natural, then, that every Moroccan has inherited the spirit of legitimacy. That is why we have remained (?committed) to legitimacy and will remain so. For us, the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, but I must reply as they did, for they agreed to hear from Abdelaziz el-Marakechi that the Moroccan occupation of the Sahara was the same as Israel's occupation of Palestine.

I will reply with a verse from God's wise book. I will say to them: All right, since you have chosen falsehood instead of truth, wrong instead of right, and opportunism over loyalty, you may have all the illusions and dreams you have asked for, but we will remain true to our commitment in international corridors. There is no legitimate representative of the Palestinian people but the PLO. It is their sole representative, although what it has done will be of no use to it at all. This is because its ranks are not closed.

The PLO thought that by bargaining at Morocco's expense it would secure its unity. I fear to say that the opposite is true. It has not won Palestinian unity — it has hurt Arab unity.

Therefore, my dear people, and as of today, we have issued an order to all our representatives, official or otherwise — such as those of political parties, or political bodies — telling them that if they attend an international gathering and a Palestinian rises to talk about Palestine they must walk out. But whenever a Moroccan can defend the Palestinian cause, it is his duty to defend the Palestinians and the Palestinian cause. But, on the other hand, if a Palestinian rises to talk about Palestinian affairs, every Moroccan, male or female, should leave. I want to say this — and I do not want to threaten, but I am the conscience of the Moroccans and I will know everything — if a Palestinian rises to speak about Palestine and a Moroccan — any Moroccan — remains seated, out of revenge for the souls of our martyrs who were labeled Zionists, his house will be marked the following morning, as they used to do in the old days. Here one should make a clear distinction between politics and honor.

We will defend Palestine until the end. We will defend Palestinian representation until the end. We will defend the position that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative to the end. But that we should be present, us, while a Palestinian talks about Palestine, whether we are government members or not, that is impossible. I say, even though this may sound like a dictatorship or that I seem to be a dictator, Morocco's honor calls for dictatorship, as these people have tricked us. They have fooled us, we Moroccans. I swear by God that anyone, be he from a party or a trade union, or whatever, and if it is learned that he was present at an international or regional rally while a Palestinian representative spoke about Palestine's rights, the door of his home will be smeared the following day with that which cannot be mentioned, in defense of the honor of those who are daily being martyred in the Sahara and who were labeled as Zionists. Apart from that, I will continue to support the Palestinians.

This is, however, the least one can do, as it is the lowest form of nationalism. I regret the fact that the Palestinians, as well as the PLO, have not realized that they are in dire need of all Arab support. The day they enter the whirlpool of inter-Arab political problems they will lose a great source of support for their cause.

For Morocco, let us consider our position. What is our problem with Syria? Hafiz al-Asad is an old friend of mine. He knows me and I know him. He appreciates me and I appreciate him. When he says something, I take him seriously and when I say something, he takes me seriously. Each of us knows he is the other's equal in terms of good manners, skill, and mutual respect. Therefore, what is the cause of our quarrel? My loyalty to PLO legitimacy? Syria is an important state in the Arab world, a frontline country, a country where 60 Moroccans were killed; 60 Moroccan martyrs fell there. Syria is a country that has a say in any regional peace process. Contrary to everything that has been said and is still being said, my meeting with Shim'on Peres was not the cause of Syria taking such a stance toward us; no, never. The real cause was the fact the Morocco has asserted for years that Syria has a problem with the PLO, with its detachments, and so on.

Morocco only recognizes the PLO and does not want to enter into these problems, which are problems known to you in the Middle East but are far from us. Thus, Morocco has sacrificed enough for the PLO. However, our position on the Palestinian cause will remain unchanged together with our stand that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative. But, henceforth, no Moroccan will attend any political or cultural gathering, even at the level of Arab writers, Arab pharmacists, Arab doctors, Arab soccer players, or whatever, where a PLO delegate is attending or delivering an address. Anyone who does so will be isolated here in Morocco. We will smear the door of his house so he will learn how to show more respect for his homeland. As Prophet Muhammad — may God's prayers and peace be upon him — said in a proven prophetic tradition: Kill him who has no sense of honor.

Dear people, I personally believed that I should talk today about this subject, as the talk is indeed lean and heavy. Lean because the behavior of those concerned was one of (?mocking); heavy because the injustice committed by our relatives is harsher to the soul from [words indistinct]. I beseech God Almighty to always give us [words indistinct] and wisdom, to make us control our emotions, and on the other hand to look to the political future of the Arab world and to its first cause, that of Palestine, with composure, certainty, and wisdom. And all this is desired and required from God Almighty, He who does not disappoint the one who beseeches Him and does not [word indistinct] the one who turned to Him with a request. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Further on Visit by France's Mitterrand

Private Meeting With Hassan

LD231246 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Marrakech, Apr 23 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco held here Wednesday a private meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand who arrived here earlier the same day on a twenty-four hour visit to Morocco.

The sovereign who was flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and Prince Moulay Rachid later hosted a dinner-banquet in the honour of the French president.

The reception was attended by Premier Azeddine Laraki, the speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman, members of the cabinet, advisers to the sovereign, members of the delegation accompanying President Mitterrand and ambassadors of the two countries.

President Mitterrand who is to attend today the inauguration by King Hassan II of the Chouarit Dam in the Azilal Province is accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond, adviser to the Presidency Hubert Vedrine and a host of personalities and journalists.

Departs for Home

LD232132 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpts] French President Francois Mitterrand left Morocco this evening after attending the inauguration of the Hassan I Dam with his majesty King Hassan II. [passage omitted] Immediately after seeing off the French president, his majesty King Hassan II received Nasir al-Nuways, who conveyed a message from Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE.

Laraki Receives Zairian Foreign Minister

LD211812 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Rabat, Apr 21 (MAP) — Moroccan Premier Azeddine Laraki Monday received here Zairean commissioner of state (minister) to [as received] foreign affairs and international cooperation Mrs Ekila Liyonda, who was accompanied by Zairean Ambassador to Rabat Ba Maduka Bavassa.

The two parties reviewed the relations existing between the two countries and dealt with the works of the two day meeting of the Moroccan-Zairean joint commission due to wind up this Tuesday as well as the means to further boost cooperation between Morocco and Zaire.

Mrs Ekila Liyonda also conferred with her Moroccan peer Abdellatif Filali on bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

SUDAN

Foreign Minister Al-Hindi Returns From Tour

EA221103 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Mr Zayn al-Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to the country yesterday after a working tour of Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Bulgaria. During his stay in Bulgaria, Al-Hindi delivered a letter from his excellency the chairman of the Council of the Head of State to the Bulgarian president. He also invited him to visit Sudan on behalf of his excellency the council chairman and discussed ways of promoting bilateral relations. Al-Hindi held a series of talks with the Bulgarian foreign minister on issues of common interest. Al-Hindi began his visit to the aforementioned states in the first week of this month.

SPLA Radio Reports Raid on Malakal Fuel Depot

LD222233 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpt] SPLA forces from Fashoda Battalion have carried out yet another daring raid on enemy targets inside the town of Malakal. According to a Radio SPLA correspondent with the forces of Fashoda, positions of enemy troops guarding the Shell fuel depot in Malakal came under attack during the early morning hours of 19 April 1987. Although precise details of enemy death toll and damage caused to installations at the depot are not yet available, our correspondent says that enemy losses were heavy. [passage omitted]

TUNISIA

'Extremist' Students Clash With Police 23 Apr

LD241256 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1210 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, 24 Apr (TAP) — At about noon yesterday, a group of students gathered in some parts of the capital and tried to create disturbances and anarchy by raising extremist Khomeynite slogans directed against the regime and state institutions.

The security forces intervened quickly to disperse the demonstrators. Many of the participants in these anarchist actions carried instruments of violence and destruction, which they used against the security forces and property. Two security men were injured, five police vehicles were damaged, and two shop windows were smashed. A number of demonstrators were remanded in custody.

Islamic Leader's Release Sought

LD231946 Paris Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Rioting took place this afternoon in the center of Tunis. Some 100 Muslim militants attacked several tourists and police cars. The rioters shouted slogans against President Bourguiba and demanded the release of Rached Ghannouchi, the leader of the Islamic Tendency Movement who was arrested last month. The police quickly dispersed the demonstrators and several sections of Tunis were cordoned off.

KENYA

President Moi Receives PRC's Gu Mu, Officials

EA222234 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya said today that the relations between his country and China were strengthened in recent years as a result of willingness by the two governments to cooperate in various sectors of development. The president said Kenya had benefited substantially from China's technical and economic cooperation, and cited the Kasarani sports complex as one of the outstanding symbols of that cooperation. President Moi was speaking in Nairobi when he received a team of senior officials of the Chinese Government who paid him a courtesy call. The officials, led by a state counsellor of the People's Republic of China, Gu Mu, are in Kenya to participate in the official handing over of the Kasarani sports complex by China to Kenya.

President Moi hailed China's willingness to cooperate with Kenya in development and even in political fields and cited the recent visit by top KANU [Kenya African National Union] officials to China. He said the visit had also strengthened relations between the two nations. President Moi, moreover, noted that China was participating in several development projects in the country, especially in road construction and water development. The president told Mr Gu Mu to inform his government of Kenya's willingness for further aid in the form of technical cooperation.

In reply, Mr Gu Mu noted that China's relations with Kenya had been consolidated as a result of President Moi's wise and practical leadership. He said there was sufficient room for more development cooperation between the two countries because of the existing healthy diplomatic relations. Mr Gu Mu conveyed to President Moi best regards from the Chinese president, Li Xiannian, and Premier Zhao Ziyang. President Moi likewise sent his greetings and those of the people of Kenya to the Chinese head of state.

Sudanese Islamic National Front Delegation Visits

JN231525 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Nairobi, 23 Apr (SUNA) — A delegation of the Executive Command of the Islamic National Front held talks with senior Kenyan officials here today. They explained the Front's goals and views concerning Sudan's national issues, especially the problem of the south and the question of the Islamic Shari'a as outlined in the Sudanese Charter.

Dr 'Ali al-Haj, secretary of the Front's Political Affairs Bureau and head of the delegation, said the Front's talks with Kenyan officials were productive. He noted that the group will hold similar discussions with officials in all neighboring African states in the next few days.

During their stay in Nairobi, the members of the delegation held talks with representatives of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] to follow up the dialogue they began in London and Addis Ababa. Al-Haj said the SPLM delegates expressed their understanding of the Front's proposals and said they will inform the Front of their observations and ideas on the Sudanese Charter after careful study.

Al-Haj pointed out that the Front is still trying to reach a national agreement that will reconcile the views of the government and the opposition, including all the Sudanese national forces, on the country's major issues. He said the Front's contacts with neighboring African states, representatives of Garang's movement, and the Anyanya II outside Sudan will be relayed to the prime minister as part of the consultations and cooperation between the government and the opposition.

SOMALIA

Rebel Group Claims Recent Mogadishu Blast

EA232330 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali
to Somalia 1700 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] was behind the recent explosion at the statue of a man throwing a stone. A report from the DFSS hit-and-run fighters headquarters says that Siad Barre, who built the statue, was the only Somali in the police force who sided with the colonialists and took part in the murder of those demonstrating for independence.

The stone throwing incident took place on 5 October 1949. Seven innocent Somalis were killed and many others were injured. It is a disgrace and an abuse of history to commemorate that day, when tens of thousands demonstrated for liberation, by erecting a statue of a naked man in a confined area. That is why we blew it up.

BENIN

Kerekou Returns; Comments on CEAO, ANAD Summits

AB230814 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpts] President Mathieu Kerekou has returned to Cotonou satified and determined to assume all the responsibilities of the CEAO [West African Economic Community] chairmanship assigned him in Nouakchott, where he took an active part in the deliberations of the 12th CEAO summit of heads of state. He was welcomed at Cotonou International Airport by the members of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin and those of the Standing Committee of the National Revolutionary Assembly. Also present at the airport were members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Benin, military and civil officials in Cotonou, and militants of the revolution in Cotonou District.

The 12th CEAO summit actually ended yesterday. With the next summit scheduled for Cotonou in 2 years, this means that President Mathieu Kerekou has been appointed chairman of the community for 2 years. Answering questions from national journalists, President Mathieu Kerekou expressed satisfaction with this new confidence placed in him and the Beninese people by his counterparts. This is why he pledged to do his best to properly assume the responsibilities entrusted to him.

According to the head of state, the major decisions at the summit were designed to reactivate the organization which, unfortunately, faces a number of problems, including the shirking of responsibilities, paralyzed structures, and the inefficiency of some cadres. It is to end this regrettable situation that the Nouakchott summit reinforced the general secretary's authority by naming him chairman of the board of directors of all the organization's decentralized institutions.

Turning to the Diawara affair — the embezzlement of 6 billion CFA francs from the Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community — President Kerekou began by deploring the matter, and said the loss of 6 billion CFA francs is too much for developing countries. He then pledged to do his best to continue the efforts initiated to recover the stolen funds.

In conclusion, he said that due to the political determination of the member-states the CEAO's future is not bleak, and this is very important for the organization's survival. As for the circulation of member-countries' products, President Kerekou criticized the fact that mineral water from Europe is currently consumed in many CEAO countries, even though Possotome mineral water is bottled in Benin. [passage omitted] After lambasting this behavior by member-states and calling for an increased sense of patriotism, President Mathieu spoke of the ANAD [Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement], of which our country is not a member. This issue, President Kerekou declared, will be examined at the appropriate time by our party and revolutionary state. [passage omitted]

President Kerekou Meets Chad's Goukouni 23 Apr

AB232200 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] This morning the president of the GUNT [Transitional Government of National Union] [as heard] was at the head of state's office. Brother Goukouni Oueddei went to hold talks with our great comrade in arms, President Mathieu Kerekou.

The Chadian leader made no statement to the press after his audience.

Amnesty International Calls For Prisoner Release

AB232155 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The human rights organization, Amnesty International, has called on the Government of Benin to free more than 80 people imprisoned without trial. Amnesty said the prisoners were being held in crammed and filthy conditions and a number of them been tortured.

IVORY COAST

Diplomatic Ties Established With Nicaragua

AB231259 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Desiring to strengthen the ties of friendship and to develop cooperation between their two peoples on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual respect, sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, and noninterference in the internal affairs of each state, the Government of Ivory Coast and Nicaragua decided to establish diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level as of Friday, 3 April 1987. The two governments will appoint their respective ambassadors in due time.

PDCI Secretaries General Begin Meeting 23 Apr

AB231645 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
0745 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The first national seminar for PDCI-RDA [Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally] secretaries general since the last congress begins in Yamoussoukro today on three issues: the life, the functioning, and the objectives of the party. The seminar, which is important, will be extended to include the prefects and highest authorities of our cities and municipalities.

The seminar will be an occasion for dialogue among all interested parties with a view to giving adequate information to the various party bodies on governmental action. In an interview with the national press, Laurent Dona Fologo, member of the Executive Committee of the Political Bureau, explained the objectives of the PDCI-RDA.

[Begin recording] The objectives of the party are those being pursued by the government. You are aware that we are curently facing major economic problems. Therefore, we must — as true party militants — explain to the grassroots the real situation we face. The PDCI is a straightforward party. That is why I feel that important operations such as assistance to farmers, food self-sufficiency, government efforts to promote health care in rural areas and to facilitate the movement of people and property inside Ivory Coast, the construction of feeder roads in rural areas, and so on, are common objectives for the party and government. The party militant must be able to present and explain these goals to the grassroots militants; he must be able to mobilize and sensitize the population for the successful achievement of our objectives. This is why we are putting emphasis on our goals. The papers to be presented at the seminar will essentially touch on these concrete objectives, the importance of which everyone realizes. [end recording] [passage omitted]

LIBERIA

Information Minister Comments on Deportation Case

AB231140 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Apr 87

[From the "Network Africa" program — hosted by Ofeibea Quist-Arcton]

[Text] The Liberian Government's decision to expel an American Roman Catholic priest earlier this month has unleashed a wave of protests among Liberians. Father James Hickey was deported on the grounds that he was an undesirable alien, well, according to the government. But students from Monrovia's university, where Father Hickey was a professor of philosophy, and teachers have come out in support of James Hickey and called on all students to boycott classes yesterday. Archishop Michael Francis of Liberia says the authorities blatantly lied by calling Father Hickey an undesirable. Well, on the line to Network last night, I spoke to Emmanuel Bowier, Liberia's minister of information.

[Begin recording] [Quist-Arcton] Mr Bowier, can I ask you first, could you give me the government's view of the expulsion of Father James Hickey and why?

[Bowier] The Government of Liberia, by and through the Ministry of Justice, charged Father Hickey with contravening Section 714 of the new Alien and Nationality Law of Liberia. The Ministry of Justice explained that Father Hickey compromised his neutrality as an alien here and therefore could no longer be tolerated.

[Quist-Arcton] In what way?

[Bowier] In what way did he compromise it?

[Quist-Arcton] Indeed.

[Bowier] The Ministry of Justice explained that Father Hickey did not remain neutral and he intefered in the internal affairs of the country with which an alien should not get involved in.

[Quist-Arcton] Can you give me some specific examples of what the....

[Bowier, interrupting] No. I have none to give you.

[Quist-Arcton] Now, there have been protests in Liberia that the expulsion was unnecessary and Father Hickey shouldn't have been thrown out of Liberia. How has the government reacted to this?

[Bowier] Protests from which quarters?

[Quist-Arcton] Students and teachers at Monrovia's university and other student bodies.

[Bowier] Well, I will tell you one thing. What I do know here is that the Catholic Church of Liberia informed the Government of Liberia that it will be closing down all of their institutions today, Wednesday, April 22, 1987 to honor Father Hickey for the number of years he has spent in Liberia. The Government of Liberia responded by granting permission for such to go on and that is happening now. All Catholic institutions are closed and Father Hickey is being honored for the number of years he has spent here.

[Quist-Arcton] But the Catholic Church is obviously not happy and the archishop, Michael Francis, of Liberia has said the authorities blatantly lied by calling Father Hickey an undesirable.

[Bowier] Well, that is Bishop Francis' opinion and he is entitled to it. I cannot argue with him about that.

[Quist-Arcton] But he is not the only Liberian who is saying these things. Obviously Father Hickey has support among the common people.

[Bowier] Well, I have not conducted any opinion poll here to find out how much support Father Hickey has among the common people and I have said I have no argument with that.

[Quist-Arcton] So far as you as minister of information and the government is concerned, is Father Hickey's issue now a closed case?

[Bowier] The Government of Liberia has not issued any statement to say that Father Hickey's issue is a closed case. The government has not said that. There are channels through which a recourse may be sought. Those channels may be used by relevant institutions concerned with the case. We have not said it is a closed case and I don't think anyone would want to think so. [end recording]

Student Leader Said Tortured

AB231958 Paris AFP in French 1459 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Monrovia, 23 Apr (AFP) — University of Liberia students have called on the Ministry of Justice to investigate the circumstances that led to the kidnapping of Kai Wleh, editor in chief of a student newspaper, by some individuals suspected of belonging to the security services, the *Daily Observer* pointed out today.

According to the newspaper, Mr Wleh was forced into a taxi without any registration number by men in plain clothes who interrogated him for 5 hours before releasing him.

Mr Wleh, a student of the American Catholic priest, James Hickey, professor of philosophy who was expelled from the country 3 weeks [as received] ago, told journalists in Monrovia that during his interrogation, he was subjected to "physical and psychological torture" designed to elicit statements from him on his relations with Father Hickey. He was also questioned about a sum of money the priest was supposed to have given to some students "to foment troubles in the country," and he was asked to identify those whom his kidnappers called "socialist students and activists who want to overthrow the government," he stated.

For their part, teaching authorities summoned directors of four Christian institutions that joined Catholic schools and the university in boycotting classes yesterday in solidarity with Father Hickey.

According to Education Minister Othello Gongar, these educational institutions run the risk of fines and the revocation of their licenses to teach in Liberia.

NIGER

Prime Minister Receives PRC Friendship Delegation

AB232240 Niamey Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Hamid Algabid met this afternoon with a delegation from the Chinese People's Association for the Promotion of International Friendship. The group has been visiting our country since 17 April.

NIGERIA

Babangida 'Refused To Receive' Chad's Goukouni

AB231620 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1230 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Goukouni Oueddei left Lagos yesterday without being received by Ibrahim Babangida. The Nigerian president refused to receive the former GUNT leader, who came to present his proposals for reconciliation with Chadian President Hissein Habre.

However, Goukouni Oueddei was received Tuesday evening by Nigerian Foreign Minister Bolaji Akinyemi. No details were given on this meeting. The ex-GUNT leader, who left Lagos yesterday, is currently in Benin, the fourth stop in his tour of black Africa, which has already taken him to Ivory Coast, Gabon, and Nigeria. In Benin, he will present, as he did in other countries, his proposals for reconciliation with Hissein Habre to President Mathieu Kerekou.

It will be recalled that, in Abidjan and Libreville, Goukouni Oueddei was received by the respective heads of state of those countries. His departure for Cotonou yesterday coincided with the end of the congress of the Democratic National Rally in Dakar. [passage omitted]

Official on NEWSWATCH Ban, Country's Future

AB231945 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 23 Apr 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Another African magazine under pressure is Nigeria's *Newswatch*. President Babangida took it off the streets for 6 months. It is all to do with the magazine's publication of details in a report by the Cookey Commission on Nigeria's political future, if and when the military hands over in 1990 as promised. It seems the government was not only displeased by the leak but also by what it proposed, such as socialism, the creation of more states, and political parties reduced to just two. The magazine was proscribed and a number of *Newswatch's* editorial staff were arrested and charged under official secrets laws.

Chief Olu Falae, secretary to the FMG [Federal Military Government], is in London. Elizabeth Ohene asked him if this did not rather tarnish the government's reputation for tolerance?

[Begin recording] [Falae] The Nigerian press, I believe, is one of the freest in the world today, but what *Newswatch* did was not exercising its freedom as part of the press media. It was committing what amounts to a criminal offense. What it did was to publish a confidential document in breach of the Official Secrets Act of Nigeria, which I believe is on the statute books of very many countries around the world, including the country of which we are speaking; so press freedom does not mean press license.

[Ohene] Well, the *Newswatch* matter has kind of preempted the Cookey report, as it were. You know it forced the recommendations of the Cookey report into the open, before the government was ready for it to be out...

[Falae, interrupting] That was precisely why the government did what it had to do. On the recommendations, some of them are very explosive, in a society where there are all kinds of strains and stresses, and it is therefore considered absolutely necessary for the government's viewpoint to be known at the same time as the public gets the report so that people will have no doubt at all as to where government stands on each of those issues.

In a society that is fairly unenlightened, publishing the report without the benefit of the government white paper may create the impression that that report is in fact the government's position. And when you are talking of issues such as an ideology for Nigeria, the role of the traditional rulers, the nature and type of partisan politics that you are going to have, all these are very sensitive matters which ought not to be made public until the government position is also available.

[Ohene] Now what exactly did the government find unacceptable or very provocative in that report? Is it the recommendation that Nigeria become a secular state?

[Falae] Not really. Regardless of the specific recommendation, the principle of the thing is wrong. Publishing the report without the government white paper can send the wrong signals to the rest of the world about the future intentions of the Nigerian Government in the areas of investment, even in the areas of ideology, because Nigeria, as you must know, is a society (?in ferment). There are very many views that are very strongly expressed. There are serious religious issues that have to be carefully handled. So to publish a report in those circumstances, containing explosive and controversial issues, without waiting for the government to take a deliberate decision on each and every one of those recommendations, in my view, is irresponsible and is dangerous.

[Ohene] What about the political situation in Nigeria though? President Babangida has said that the military will be handing over to the civilians or at least there will be a return to civilian rule by 1990. Do you think you are on course?

[Falae] Yes. Nothing has happened to make the government reconsider its commitment to a changeover to civilian government in 1990. I have no doubt at all that this government will return the country to civilian rule in 1990.

[Ohene] This Cookey report and the reaction of the government to it: Some people think that the government of President Babangida, as representing the military, as it were, is trying to work out some schemes by which the military, after 1990, would retain a semblance of power.

[Falae] I can tell you that it is not at all in the cards. I think the present government recognizes that any person who is privileged to govern a country like Nigeria for 5 years is extremely lucky and he will be looking for trouble if he tries to stay on by one subterfuge or the other; and so I do not at all give credit to the speculation that the government might be trying to find a way of staying on in power. After all, they did not have to commit themselves to 1990 in the first place. [end recording]

SIERRA LEONE

Coup Suspects Identify Key Arms Depots

AB231910 Paris AFP in English 1853 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Freetown, April 23 (AFP) — Fifteen suspected plotters in Sierra Leone's March 23 abortive military coup here to over throw the government of President Joseph Momoh were taken early Thursday to identify various areas that have been named as depots for a discovered arsenal of arms and ammunition in evidence given so far, as police continue their investigations.

They included the suspected ringleader, Assistant Superintendent of Police Gabriel Kaikai, Lebanese businessman Qassim Ali, who is financial controller for Lebanese tycoon Jamil Sa'id Muhammad, and former First Vice President Francis Minah, as well as his sister, Paramount Chieftainess Matilda Kaikai.

The suspects were also taken under heavy guard to the military barracks to identify arms and ammunition captured in the foiled plot, in which one paramilitary officer was killed.

Some 30 people, mainly junior Army officers from Mr Minah's southern Pujehun District, are being detained at the maximum security central prison in connection with the coup plot.

Security forces still remain on the alert in the capital and along the seaside beaches amid widespread rumours of an impending mercenary invasion, although the authorities have remained silent on the issue.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese manager at Sierra Fishing Company, Sufiyan 'Izz al-Din, was arrested for threatening to make Sierra Leone another Lebanon if the Lebanese among the accused plotters, Qassim Ali, was not released immediately.

TOGO

Ex-GUNT Leader Goukouni Arrives From Benin

AB231933 Lome Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Goukouni Oueddei, former head of the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government], arrived in Lome early this afternoon by road from Cotonou, in the People's Republic of Benin. It was 1550 when Mr Goukouni Oueddei was welcomed at the border town of Sande-Konji in Aneho by Yaovi Adodo, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. He was accompanied by Atsu Koffi Amegah, president of the Supreme Court, and the prefect of Lac Region, (Beawo Kpekpassi).

SOUTH AFRICA

Police Investigating 'Terrorism' in Labor Unrest

MB231821 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1815 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria April 23 SAPA — Police are investigating charges of terrorism, among others, following the detention of a "considerable number" of people yesterday after they surrounded and searched COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] House in Johannesburg in a sequel to the death of six railway strikers in two violent confrontations with security forces.

In the first detailed statement from police on yesterday's shootings near the Germiston and Doornfontein railway stations, the Directorate of Public Relations said tonight in Pretoria one of the reasons for the operation were "reasonable grounds" a number of trained terrorists were in COSATU House. An earlier statement issued to the media by the directorate, containing specific details of the number of people detained and suspected terrorists was withdrawn and amended "on legal grounds."

Six people were killed and 13 injured — seven of them policemen — in the two railway strike-related shootings at Germiston and Doornfontein, which preceded the police action at COSATU House.

Police said other reasons for the COSATU House operation were that it was understood violent action against policemen and their families was being planned in the building to revenge the death of a fellow striker killed earlier by police in Germiston, and that a further attack from "militant and aggressive" strikers was expected.

When police entered the building after announcing their intention to do so by loudhailer and urging people to leave, members of the SAP were attacked with "iron bars, pangas, knives and axes."

The other charges being investigated in connection with those detained were public violence, attempted murder, robbery and illegal immigration.

The directorate said the attacking strikers who seriously wounded policemen at Doornfontein had black marks on their foreheads, and that a number of those in COSATU House had similar marks. During interrogation it had come to light the marking were applied by a witchdoctor to protect the men, during their attacks on police, from security force bullets.

The directorate said police had received a report of unrest at World Centre, near the Germiston railway station at about 11am yesterday. "During the ensuing security forces action at the centre, four police members were injured (one with a seriously fractured skull) and numerous vehicles were damaged by stone-throwers. Three of the rioters were fatally wounded and one injured man was arrested."

Later yesterday, a group of blacks had been seen walking towards the railway station in Doornfontein, Johannesburg. Major Barry van der Walt stopped them and asked them to disperse. When they ignored this, he had attempted to disperse them with tear-gas. "The group immediately attacked him with sticks, knives knobkerries and a variety of other weapons. Major van der Walt and another member who was with him fired on the mob in self defence.

"Constables Vlok and Van Jaarsveld heard the shots and rushed to their assistance. All four were seriously injured in the attack. The policemen managed to drive off their attackers who ran towards COSATU House."

The directorate said COSATU House had been surrounded by security force members and it had been decided to search the building as a result of the following information:

— A fresh trail of blood and drops of blood were found at the entrance to COSATU House. These were traced back to the scene of the attack on the four policemen;

— a group of about 200 black men ran into COSATU House after the attack on the policemen and most of these were armed with sticks, knobkerries, "quirts," pangas and axes;

— it was understood violent action against SAP members and their families was being planned in COSATU House to revenge the death of a fellow striker who was killed by police in Germiston earlier;

— there were reasonable grounds for believing there were a number of trained terrorist in COSATU House; and

— the strikers who were in COSATU House at the time were very militant and aggressive and the police expected a further attack on them by the strikers.

The directorate said that before police had entered COSATU House, at about 6pm, they had "audibly" announced their intention to do so by loudhailer and that those in the building had been warned to vacate. "This warning was ignored and the members entered the building.

"On entering the building, the members were attacked with iron bars, sticks, pangas, knives and axes. Two shots were fired to ward off the attack after a number of security force members had been injured. One of the attackers was wounded and is under guard in hospital."

Police had searched the whole building and "a considerable number of people were detained.

"Charges of the nature of terrorism, public violence, attempted murder, robbery and illegal immigration are being investigated."

Police also said weapons of the strikers were seized during the operation.

"Members of the police who were with Major van der Walt when they were attacked, notices their attackers had black marks on their foreheads. A number of those arrested in COSATU House had similar marks. During interrogation of the detainees it came to light that the black markings were applied by a witchdoctor to protect the bearers during their attacks on the police, from the later's bullets," the directorate's statement concluded.

Union Claims Police Brutality

MB240512 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0119 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 23, SAPA — A senior police officer was overheard planning "what the story would be" after the deaths of three people in a police attack on railway strikers in Germiston yesterday, the Rand Supreme Court was told today.

In an affidavit read to the court, general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU], Mr Jay Naidoo, said the police committed unprovoked and vicious assaults on railway workers who had been holding a peaceful meeting. At least one person who was shot was unarmed and was running away, he said.

The police deny the allegations and say they will present affidavits containing their version on Monday.

Mr Naidoo said today that members of COSATU affiliate South African Railways and Harbours Union [SARHWU] held a meeting at COSATU's Germiston premises — a hall in a shopping centre — to discuss an ultimatum issued by the South African Transport Services. About 200 members who could not be accommodated in the small venue stood outside the doors, but inside the shopping centre, he said. Some people stood on a first floor balcony.

At about 11am, 70 policemen armed with sjamboks [whips], shotguns, and pistols entered the premises, some stationing themselves at the only entrance to the shopping centre, others moving inside and positioning themselves in small groups on both floors, Mr Naidoo said. They did not order people to disperse and the meeting continued, he said. About ten minutes later, a group of policemen began to move people on the first floor towards the stairs. "They moved these people walking towards them and on occasion, tapping them with sjamboks and saying words such as: toe loop, loop (come on, walk)," he said.

Policemen blocked the top of the stairs and, as people stopped there, they were beaten with sjamboks from all sides. "The victims began to scream and run away from the policemen assaulting them. As they did so, they were also assaulted by other policemen," Mr Naidoo said.

On the ground floor, police began to assault people, who could not leave the centre because police blocked the single exit. "Some people inside the hall jumped through windows to escape the assault," Mr Naidoo said. But police assaulted them outside the building.

Mr Naidoo said a SARHWU member, Mr Patrick Molefe, who supplied a supporting affidavit, saw a policeman inside the centre fire his shotgun towards the entrance. "It appeared to Molefe that he struck a person about 6m away from him. The person fell to the ground. He was unarmed and there was nothing in his hand. He appeared to have been running out of the shop when he was shot at near point-blank range," Mr Naidoo said.

An organiser for the Chemical Workers Industrial Union, Mr Wesley Dumo, who also supplied a supporting affidavit, saw the bodies of two men lying on the floor. "One of these men was breathing heavily, the other appeared to be dead," Mr Naidoo said. He said the first man lay there for about an hour.

Mr Naidoo said that he went to Germiston after hearing about the incident. While asking people in the centre what had taken place, policemen entered the office. A white man, in plain clothes, told people they had not seen anything that had happened and should sign a statement saying this, Mr Naidoo said.

Mr Naidoo said he and his attorney were forced from the office when they intervened. Later, a Metal and Allied Workers Union official, Mr Ben Petersen, overheard a conversation between a Defence Force officer and a person who he believed was a senior officer of the SAP, Mr Naidoo said. According to Mr Petersen, the SADF officer said: "What will the story be?" The police officer said: "Let us put it this way. there was a riotous meeting in the street. This is unlawful because of the state of emergency. He had to take action when they got out of control."

SATS Dismissals Continue; Most Strikers Released

MB231148 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1039 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 23, SAPA — The dismissal of 16000 railway workers continued today and the situation at the 80 strike-hit depots was quiet this morning, SATS [South African Transport Services] spokesman Mr Dirk Beukes said.

Workers who did not meet yesterdays 8am deadline to return to work were considered to have "terminated their services without the necessary notice."

The strike began six weeks ago when a driver was dismissed from the City Deep depot.

The administrative procedure to fire 6000 was completed yesterday and a further 10000 will be dismissed today and tomorrow.

Mr Beukes said about 900 people had been temporarily employed, and would later be made permanent employees, after SATS offices in Johannesburg were "flooded with unemployed people."

"All is quiet on the Reef, the trains are running normal and the patronage is 75 per cent plus," he said.

Sats Managing Director Dr Bart Grove said yesterday fired workers would be considered for reinstatement if they reapplied "within a reasonable period."

A SATS spokesman said this morning they would not be dealing with reinstatement applications until next week.

A South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union spokesman said striking workers were bitter about events yesterday which culminated in six strikers being killed, many injured and arrested, and their COSATU House offices raided.

Mr Isaac Molemohi said there was no question of workers returning to work — "The strike will continue, especially after the barbaric incidents yesterday."

Mr Molemohi said the union and the Congress of South African Trade Unions was holding a meeting today to decide how to deal with the situaiton.

He said all was quiet at COSATU House today, although police were still present outside the building.

"Most of our members arrested last night have been released," he added.

Workers Reportedly Evicted

MB231605 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1500 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Transport workers at Oogies station in the eastern Transvaal are reportedly being evicted from their hostel. A South African Railways and Harbor Workers Union official says strikers who were fired yesterday are now being forced out of the hostel. South African Transport Services [SATS] public relations officer, Jannie van Zyl, however, has vehemently denied this. We wouldn't do a thing like that, he has told IRN [Independent Radio News], but when IRN tried to contact the hostel to confirm reports, an Oogies station employee said he did not think there was anyone at the hostel; and he thought they had all been forced to leave after being dismissed. He said 98 percent of the Oogies black workers were on strike and were thus fired yesterday.

SATS Issues Statement

MB231947 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1801 GMT 23 Apr 87

[SAPA PR (Press Release) Wire Service: "Issued by: SATS"]

[Text] The six-week old strike at SATS [South African Transport Services] has effectively come to an end.

A large number of employees chose not to resume work rather than facing more drastic intimidation.

The day to day activities of SATS must, however, continue and the necessary contingency plans have already been put into action. SATS will continue its services unabated as it has been doing for the past couple of weeks. Clients may, therefore, rest assured that the traditional services will not be affected.

All the administrative work in connection with the strike is now being finalised, and this in itself is a mammoth task and will probably be completed tomorrow.

Meanwhile SATS reports that large numbers of dismissed strikers are already queuing up for reemployment, but SATS says each application will be considered on merit and can only receive attention after the administrative work in connection with the dismissals had been completed.

It is clear that many workers are only now beginning to realise that they had been unscrupulously drawn into a situation by people who are not at all concerned about the welfare of the workers or their families. Management, however, are deeply concerned about these unfortunate people and have already indicated that they will look into the matter as soon as possible.

Information Bureau Issues Daily Unrest Report

MB231121 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1119 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria, April 23, SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report:

"Unrest report period 00h01 to 24h00 (22 April)

"About 20 black youths stoned a delivery vehicle in Naledi (Soweto) yesterday. Police fired at the rioters. A black man, Patrick Phokojoie, 18, was fatally wounded. No arrests were made.

"About 60 black youths raided a shop at Lang-verwacht (Evander) in the eastern Transvaal and set the owners car alight. The owner, Mr Efraem Sebango, and his son suffered slight injuries when they were stoned while trying to extinguish the fire. Damage was reported as minimal.

"A black man, Mr Sipho Mbanjwa, suffered slight injuries when about 1000 black persons stoned three buses in Hammersdale (Pietermaritzburg) yesterday. Extensive damage was caused to the buses. No arrests were made.

"A two-year-old black child was injured when a group of blacks threw a petrol bomb at a private home in Imbali (Pietermaritzburg). No arrests have yet been made.

"Unidentified persons threw a handgrenade at the private home of a SAP member in Elsies River (Goodwood) last night. Slight damage was caused to his house as well as that of his neighbour. No arrests have yet been made.

"Unidentified persons threw a handgrenade at the private home of a Mr Nissan, in Mitchells Plain (Cape Town) last night. A coloured child, Christoffer Nissan, 2, was slightly injured in the left forearm. No arrests have yet been made and police investigations are continuing.

"In another incident in Bonteheuwel (Cape Town) a handgrenade was thrown through the living room window of a private home causing reasonable damage. No injuries or arrests were reported.

"March 1987 (unrest review)

"The relatively few incidents (234) and fatalities (11), which occurred during March, are the lowest figures to date since the onset of the unrest in September 1984.

"For the first time the unrest was not concentrated in Soweto or the eastern Cape but occurred in the Port Natal area. This specific phenomenon can be linked to the conflict and rivalry between the UDF and Inkatha.

"Although the April unrest figures are not complete yet, it seems as though there is a slight intensification of unrest on certain terrains. Reports on this will follow as soon as full details are available."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

23 Apr Press Review

MB231148 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN Condemns PFP Attitude Toward Security

"The SACP, ANC and other radical organisations are out to destroy the existing order by violence, unrest, strikes and civil disobedience and replace it with a one man, one vote Black majority Marxist government, yet the PFP is against the state of emergency and the suppression of violence by all the means at the State's disposal," remarks Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 22 April in its page 6 editorial. "Not only that — it condemns the actions of the security forces in putting down civil disorder, sets up monitoring groups which discredit the security forces, and calls for the withdrawal of troops from the townships when it well knows that only the presence of the troops has helped to restore and maintain law and order." The communists "are a tough, ruthless bunch — and they cannot be fought with the kid-glove methods the PFP favours. The country has been on the verge of insurrection — some radicals even talk of civil war — and the response has to be tough. If the PFP thinks it can abandon security laws, the use of troops in the townships and the state of emergency, unban the ANC and set Nelson Mandela free while they refuse to renounce violence, it is a menace to itself and the country."

STAR on Ban on Protests

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 22 April comments on the UN Security Council appeal to South Africa to "withdraw its ban on protests against detention." "Rejecting that call, Mr Botha [Minister of Foreign Affairs] talked of ANC violence and asked UN members to say clearly whether they approve of necklace murders." "The vast majority of South Africans will agree with Foreign Minister Botha that they want peace and stability. How to get there is not always clear, but certainly shared power rather than oppression is the route. And there is one other certainty: this Government, in trying to justify its wild rejection of rule of law, is either lying or fooling itself. It should know that no one can protect civilised standards by destroying them."

Black Demands Deserve Attention

A second editorial on the same page says: "Much of present Nationalist policy earns derision from blacks. The election would be irrelevant to them but for the fact that they get hurt by the verdict of whites. Both those factors should not be forgotten by voters as election day approaches. It should not be overlooked that, voteless though blacks may be, their attitudes affect the future of everybody in the country. Their wishes deserve far more attention than they get. Their demands for real reforms deserve a more positive response."

BUSINESS DAY: Union Leaders Under Pressure

A page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 22 April says "threats of dismissal, implied or explicit, put union leaders in a difficult position. Unlike management, they are democratically elected and answerable to a constituency. Anybody with the slightest political sense will understand that elected leaders find it excruciatingly difficult, even if they wish to compromise, to yield to a public ultimatum. The capacity of low-paid workers to stay out on strike is obviously limited. Therefore the primary need is not to increase pressure but to open and maintain channels of communication. But, unhappily, heavy-handedness has become a distinguishing characteristic of our public life."

CAPE TIMES Calls for Negotiations With Blacks

A page 8 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 21 April says the cause of the trouble in South Africa "is not communism, which would rapidly go to the wall in a free society. As Mr Colin Eglin [PFP leader] said last week in Bloemfontein, the problem is that 70 percent of the people have had no effective political rights since Union — and so many have turned to revolution. Instead of a solution, the NP offers continued white supremacy, apartheid and the big stick to keep blacks in line. An alliance of moderates, on the other hand, would scrap apartheid and would negotiate with recognized black leaders from a position of strength. The ANC and other banned organizations would be unbanned and drawn into lawful politics and away from violence. The choice is plain: between a stagnating apartheid-ridden society living with guns and sjamboks [whips] at the ready — or a relaxed and increasingly prosperous multi-racial community working together for a new South Africa."

CAPE TIMES Calls For the Lifting of Emergency

A page 8 editorial in *Cape Times* says that Minister of Defense General Magnus Malan gave five preconditions for the lifting of the state of the emergency. "If General Malan is to wait until all these conditions have been met before lifting the emergency, he will wait for a long time. The sensible approach would be to lift the emergency now so that the resultant amelioration in conditions would help create a problem-solving atmosphere. While people are detained without trial, meetings banned, the press gagged, townships virtually armed camps, etc, there is no chance that conditions in South Africa will improve in a meaningful and durable way."

SOWETAN on Increasing Black Unrest

"We hate to spread panic, but it appears the storm clouds are beginning to gather once more in places like Soweto and will inevitably spread to other areas," remarks Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 22 April in its page 6 editorial. "There are rumours of work stoppages. There is talk of problems re-emerging in the schools. There are repeated Government warnings to neighbouring states of the threat of an attack from the

ANC. This is hardly the climate conducive to the democratic process of holding an election. In fact it is fair comment to say that Mr P.W. Botha made a blunder when he called for an election in May. Too many events which repeat themselves in this country take place round about that time. It is not very far from the various days in which the people and workers dedicate themselves to the recognition of certain days in the liberation calendar. It is a very bad time for an election." "Even those people who believe themselves to be in the vanguard of the struggle should be wary of a conservative backlash from people who will then delay the same struggle for many more years to come. The situation in South Africa is very depressing. The tragedy is that it is all so predictable. If we could only grow up to face our problems in a mature and responsible fashion."

TRANSVALER on 'Sabotage' of Trains

"No responsible authority can sit with folded arms while acts of sabotage are committed by intimidators against public property," says Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 21 April in a page 10 editorial commenting on the burning of trains throughout the country. "Critics who are all too quick to condemn the presence of the men in uniform who are trying to prevent intimidation and violence, can have no argument in this case." "Experience has taught that terrorism must be handled firmly." "The transportation authorities have shown a willingness to try to understand the problems of the strikers. So a more reasonable attitude on their part cannot be expected."

BURGER on PFP 'Image'

"However hard the PFP may try, the concerned voters will not trust it before it rids itself of ambiguity concerning the SACP and the ANC," says a page 8 editorial in Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 21 April. "The PFP will have to acknowledge that the SACP is indeed a violent organization, which uses the ANC as a front." "Until the PFP realizes that exceptional methods are necessary against an enemy that does not concern itself with the conventional, its negative image will continue to cling to it."

BEELD Favors NP as Election Choice

A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 22 April says that "if all the election rhetoric is pushed aside there remains a few basic issues: the pace of reform, the stability that accompanies reform, and the security of the country. Because the right wing parties do not address these issues, the debate remains between the NP and the alliance of the PFP, independents and the New Republic Party. We fear the alliance can offer no confidence. Its blinding 'vision' gives no details as to how South Africa is to be delivered. The PFP is in a swamp of mistrust concerning its security approach and should not be surprised if voters reject it." On the other hand "if the NP can use the renewed security in the country to continue with reform, we can hardly see what other choice the voters have but to vote for the NP."

RAPPORT: Constitution To Ensure Stability

On page 10 of Johannesburg *Rapport* in Afrikaans on 19 April the director of the Center for Constitutional Research at the University of Pretoria, Dion Basson, says: "There is an urgent need for a constitution for South Africa that will ensure stability." But the constitution can only be respected if it "lives in the thoughts, hearts and dreams of the subjects of this country." "A constituional dispensation that will demand respect and general acceptance from all South Africans must be aimed at. For the constitution to be legitimate it should fulfill the ideals that live in the thoughts, hearts, and dreams of all the people. It is the only guarantee that it will survive and will become more than just the piece of paper on which it is typed. Today there are millions of dreamers in South Africa and the lesson to be learned from the constitutional past should not be ignored: today's frustrated dreamers are tomorrow's revolutionaries."

NAMIBIAN on National Holidays

The page 11 editorial in Windhoek *The Namibian* in English on 17 April remarks that "the credibility of the interim government concerning the public holidays issue may have been somewhat salvaged by the last-ditch signing of a Proclamation by the Administrator General to make May Day (May 1, also known as International Workers Day) a 'legal' public holiday this year, but it is obvious that the South African Government have stepped in to prevent the Public Holidays Bill from becoming law." "Although it would seem that there are no long-term objections to a new set of holidays for Namibia, the Administrator General will not sign the proclamation until such time as the South African elections have been held. It is likely therefore, that Namibians will have to 'celebrate' South African public holidays, at least for the remainder of this year. If change in Namibia is to be so dependent on the whims of the South African Government, then the country can hardly look forward to any significant progress in the near future."

Lister on P.W. Botha Audience With Church Leaders

Gwen Lister writes in the "Political Perspective" column on page 10 that "only a ceasefire can bring an end to the war in northern Namibia. It was presumably with this fact in mind that Namibian churchleaders (who wish to resolve the war situation before it reaches what they refer to as a 'calamitous stage') requested an audience with South African State President, Mr P.W. Botha. Unfortunately, the South African Government and their lackeys still persist in holding the viewpoint that the war on Namibia's northern border between the SADF and SWAPO fighters is a 'low-intensity bush war'; despite the fact that it has raged for over 20 years and shows no signs of abating; and neither is there the slightest indication that either side to the conflict is preparing to unilaterally lay down arms." But, "the war situation will not be discussed by the State President unless it is in the context of what Mr Pienaar [Administrator General of Namibia] referred to as a 'cessation of violence by SWAPO'; interim government representatives will be present, although the churchleaders themselves represent 86 percent of the population; discussion of 'reconciliation' will effectively remove attention from the escalating war situation and despite the fact that 'reconciliation' is hardly possible without a ceasefire; and lastly, churchleaders must agree to 'minority rights' guarantees. Is the South African Government really serious, in view of the above, about a 'peaceful' solution to the Namibian conflict?"

24 Apr Press Review

MB240917[Editorial Report]

CITIZEN: Unrest 'Well-orchestrated'

"If you believe in coincidences, then the South African Transport Services strike, the Post Office strike, the stayaway over rents in Soweto, the planned campaign of sit-ins at police stations over detainees, and various other protest actions are not a well-orchestrated attempt to cause trouble ahead of the election on May 6," remarks the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 23 April. "The attempts to overthrow the existing order are doomed to failure, since the National Party is determined not to allow the country to be destabilised and to be taken over by the forces of insurrection. As for the unrest influencing the electorate, the more trouble there is, the greater the support for the National Party and the less support there is for the PFP, the soft-on-law-and-order party of the Left." "If our interpretation of events is correct, we can expect more attempts at unrest, more clashes with the police, an extension of existing strikes, and various campaigns all aimed at creating an atmosphere of tension. But, as we said, it is a dangerous game, and those who are mounting the campaign should beware. There is no way in which the government will allow a return to the violence that occurred before the national state of emergency was declared."

THE STAR Criticizes Government Handling of Strikes

"The township rents issue is flaring into a major confrontation. Workers are staying home and there has been violence, but no Cabinet Minister is making any effective public effort to intervene in a way that will defuse the crisis," says a page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 23 April. "A plague of strikes and boycott action is spreading rapidly, but the Government seems so preoccupied with its own white elections that the situation is running wild. Inaction is not a response. Dismissing strikers is hardly constructive collective bargaining and is certainly not in the spirit of the Industrial Conciliation Act. The strikers and demonstrators must bear their full share of the blame for not trying to use the channels offered, but it is quite unacceptable for the Government to sit back and do nothing just because those channels have not been used. It appears powerless to steer the situation away from violence. Worse, it is not even attempting to do so."

Whites Should Not Boycott Elections

"Dr Van Zyl Slabbert was absolutely right when he noted the other day that the real political conflict in South Africa is between the extra-parliamentary government and the extra-parliamentary opposition," writes Allister Sparks in the "My View" column on the same page. "The declaration of a state of emergency, the most severe restriction on the Press and on the freedom of speech and assembly in the country's history, the detention of thousands of people without trial and the criminalising of protests against those detentions" has been done by "decree, by civil servants mostly, with no reference to Parliament and with contempt for the concept of a free electoral process." "At the same time the real challenge to the ruling establishment is coming increasingly from the disfranchised blacks — their political organisations and trade unions which are excluded from the formal political system and yet determine its response." Sparks says that it is nevertheless "wrong to regard either white or black politics as irrelevant. South Africa is about black nationalism challenging Afrikaner nationalism's monopoly hold on power — which means each is relevant to the other in the most fundamental possible way and the interaction between the two is what is ultimately going to determine the fate of us all." For the white community to boycott the elections is not very effective. "The white dissenter actually strengthens the pro-apartheid position by withholding his vote against it. He increases the Government's majority and thus its confidence and assertiveness. This makes no sense strategically — nor, for that matter, does it make much moral sense either if the end result is to prolong black oppression."

BUSINESS DAY on Government Attitude Toward Strikes

"As we feared, the confrontational tactics adopted by SA Transport Services (SATS) to deal with the strike by 18,000 workers has ended in tragic loss of life, in violence and political crisis. The effects will linger indefinitely," says a page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 23 April. "Certainly, the display of kragdadigheid [show of force] by SATS management fits very neatly into the National Party's attempt to present itself as white South Africa's only protector against the black masses." "If labour strife is to continue to be handled in the ham-handed fashion in which SATS has behaved, then we fear that the deaths and injuries that occurred yesterday are bound to be repeated down the years."

BUSINESS DAY on Election Campaign

"As usual in a South African election campaign, political debate has all but died out," says a page 8 editorial in *Business Day*. "In its place has come a flood of what might best be called political sewage — smears, insults, distortions, abuse, sloganeering misrepresentations." "One exception to all this sludge is the campaign of that nice man, Wynand Malan [former NP MP for Randburg], whose earnest courtesy and ponderous goodwill offer a glimpse of a future in which voters will not be assumed to demand hate, anger and lies. We are surely a better people than many politicians think we are."

Independents To Help Break Mold of White Politics

"The independents, the wild card in next month's elections, are gradually coming into sharp focus as polling day approaches," says political correspondent Max du Preez on the same page. The independents "express themselves strongly in favour of scrapping every last bit of apartheid and racial discrimination, but at the same time have not lost all fear of whites being swamped. They are not strongly opposed to the state of emergency or the Press curbs and believe that law and order are prerequisites for progress. At the same time they are concerned about the erosion of democracy and the rule of law." But, PFP secretary-general Robin Carlisle says "'how this group mobilises politically is not important. That they do is absolutely crucial — whether they do it around the Malan group or around the PFP. The fact is they are our natural allies. This is what could finally break the mould of white politics.'"

NEW NATION on DPSC Support For Detainees

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *New Nation* in English on 23-29 April says the new emergency regulations virtually outlawing campaigns around the detentions of *New Nation* editor Zwelakhe Sisulu and other South Africans were promulgated but "detainee support organisations are not taking them lying down. 'We are not dead or dying,' Detainees' Parents Support Committee (DPSC) spokesman Max Coleman said this week. He said the DPSC would respond to the curbs in three ways: by fighting them in court; by refusing to 'give up our right to fight for an end to detention without trial'; by continuing to render services to detainees and their families." "Coleman said the DPSC had been encourage by the massive support it had received some of it from 'unexpected quarters.'" "'we want to make it very clear to the outside world that we are alive and kicking.'"

RSA Not Prepared for Ceasefire With SWAPO

"Dissatisfaction with the status quo and a burning hatred of South Africa's illegal presence in Namibia is still evident among the country's people — 20 years after South Africa violated the United Nations mandate and imposed its own administration on the territory," says an unsigned commentary on the same page. "Despite a commitment to the UN settlement plan for Namibia, it is obvious that the South African Government plans to continue its occupation of Namibia until it is able to hand over complete control to the interim government. It is equally obvious, from repeated pronouncements by this government, that it does not intend to sign a ceasefire with SWAPO — a necessary prerequisite for the implementation of free and fair elections." "There have been so many promises of self-determination and independence during the past two decades — hopes which have never been realised — that many Namibians lack confidence in the future. In the early months of 1987, prospects for peace are as distant as ever, and Africa's last and largely forgotten colony could struggle for self-determination for several years yet."

Commentary Claims SWAPO Gaining Political Upper Hand

Another unsigned commentary on the same page says SWAPO has "won the political and diplomatice struggle on the international front. According to political observers in Namibia, SWAPO would gain a clear victory if free and fair elections were to be held in the country." "On the military front, SA appears to retain the upperhand. According to figures released by the SADF, security forces in the north have killed 400 SWAPO insurgents in the first three months of this year. In a war communique released in Luanda last week PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] combatants claim to have killed 128 South African soldiers during the same period." "'As a result of the victories being scored by PLAN, the racist army of occupation has resorted to the cowardly tactic of escalating its reign of terror against the innocent civilian population,' stated the communique."

SOWETAN on Growing Discontent in Townships

"This country is in trouble in spite of the state of emergency and the tough security measures instituted by the Government," says Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 23 April in its page 6 editorial. "The Government knows the causes of discontent. So that their total disregard of the various areas of discontent, coupled with the stock response to act and sound tough, is a measure of their failure — their total failure — to address themselves to the problems in the black community." "The state of emergency which has been hailed as a tremendous success in bringing about law and order was a monumental blunder from the start. We warned those in authority on countless occasions that there was a sullen silence which was in no way a true reflection of what was going on. On many occasions too, we have said that the rent boycott issue was like a time-bomb steadily ticking away. Perhaps the Government and its supporters thought this was simply instigation or a kind of wish that things should fall apart once more. They cannot be more mistaken. We live in the black townships. We do not like to experience the mayhem that became almost a daily event in the townships last year."

BEELD Against Black Majority Government

A page 18 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 23 April says the independent candidate in Stellenbosch, Dr Esther Lategan, "is not the first of the independents or rebel academics to advocate a black majority government." But, "do these people know what they are talking about? Do they have an idea of who is to form that black government? Do they have any guarantee that it will indeed be a majority government?" *Beeld* agrees that "South Africans have beaten the racist drum for too long," but wants a government that will "maintain the standards to which we are accustomed." *Beeld* says Lategan and others like her are in fact advocating a government "that uses matches and necklaces. She should consider our diverse population groups and variety of political beliefs among whites and nonwhites to realize that she is guilty of dangerous daydreaming."

ZIMBABWE

Police Confirm Detention of 8 South Africans

MB231711 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] ZIANA reports that police in Harare have confirmed that they are detaining eight South African men. Police confirm that the men were arrested on the 13th of this month but did not give further details.

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT Contents unchanged

VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include:

- International Affairs
- Inter-African Affairs
- Central Africa
  - Burundi
  - Cameroon
  - Central African Republic
  - Congo
  - Equatorial Guinea
  - Gabon
  - Rwanda
  - Sao Tome & Principe
  - Zaire
- East Africa
  - Djibouti
  - Ethiopia
  - Kenya
  - Somalia
  - Tanzania
  - Uganda
- Indian Ocean
  - Comoros
  - Madagascar
  - Mauritius
  - Seychelles
- Southern Africa
  - Angola
  - Botswana
  - Lesotho
  - Malawi
  - Mozambique
  - Namibia
  - Republic of South Africa
  - Reunion
  - Swaziland
  - Zambia
  - Zimbabwe
- Western Africa
  - Benin
  - Burkina Faso
  - Cape Verde Islands
  - The Gambia
  - Ghana
  - Guinea
  - Guinea-Bissau
  - Ivory Coast
  - Liberia
  - Mali
  - Niger
  - Nigeria
  - Senegal
  - Sierra Leone
  - Togo

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